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Bold Missions On The Move

New Evangelistic Zeal Wins Italians To Christ

By Martha Skelton

ROME, Italy (BP) — Pastors are elated. Church members are enthusiastic. Veteran missionaries can't recall anything like it for at least the past 20 years. An interest in reaching out, witnessing, evangelizing has taken root and budded among Italian Baptists.

A combination of factors and their timing seem to have contributed to a visible stirring... an openness to the Holy Spirit's leading in reaching beyond the church walls to share the gospel with the missions of Italy's non-Christians.

Pastor Angelo Chiarelli of Via Urbana Baptist Church, Rome, recalls the individual responses and churchwide growth his congregation experienced after participating in evangelistic meetings last fall.

"One man in our church is a bank manager, very shy," he explains. "He took days of vacation, went into the streets giving out tracts and inviting people to come. All the people are interested in inviting. They say to me, 'Now, pastor, don't stop.' As a pastor it was a thing for which I prayed so long."

Much of the new vitality is expressed in congregations such as Chiarelli's. That is not an accident.

"The church is the agent of evangelism. We don't do evangelism as a department," says Saverio Guarna, pastor of the Baptist church in Isola del Liri and secretary for evangelism of the Baptist Evangelical Union of Italy. The department emphasizes outreach through church units.

"Revival starts in a single church when the Holy Spirit blows, and one, two, or three people are ready to hear him and open their lives to the newness of the Spirit," observes pastor Mario Marziale of the Baptist church in Florence, Italy.

Baptists are also using cooperative efforts through an association, other Protestant groups, and in jointly sponsored campaigns.

Five or six years ago, the nine churches in Piemonte Baptist Association began to discuss how to "get out of

our eggshells to meet the public," says Michele Foligno, pastor in Turin and president of the association. "We wanted to break the confining mentality in which we were living. We began to realize each church could do something, but together we might be able to

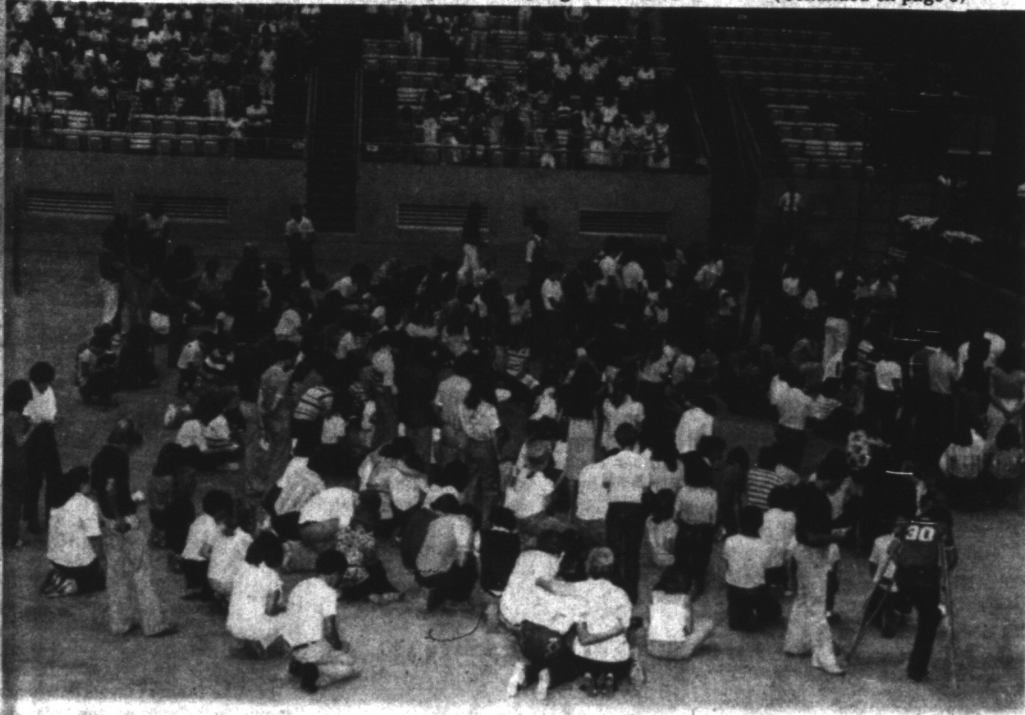
do something better. The association took the idea of actual, direct, overt evangelism."

The effort has become "our reason for being," says Foligno.

Because Baptists and other evangelical groups—counted together—are a

religious minority, they find joint efforts effective. "Protestant organizations together can speak better," says Marziale, who serves on a pastor's council in Florence.

Earlier experiences with evangelism (Continued on page 5)



Youth Night '80 Decisions

Hundreds of decisions were recorded following each of the two Youth Night '80 sessions last Friday at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. Pictures of the platform guests are on page 2. (Tim Nicholas Photo)

—Offering At \$15.5 Million—

"Annie" Pushes Past Goal

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP) — The 1980 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions surpassed its goal for the first time in four years, William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, said.

Tanner told participants and Home Mission Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center the offering reached \$15,562,470.80 Aug. 11.

Tanner added giving was 4/10ths of a percent above the \$15.5 million goal. The projected total for the 1980 offering is \$16.2 million. "I am grateful Southern Baptists responded so well," Tanner said. "I don't think it's too much to say that God is blessing."

The last time the offering reached a goal was in 1976 when it exceeded the \$9.5 million goal by 1.6 percent. The offering annually provides about one half of the board's operating budget.

The additional funds insure missionary salary increases and new missionary appointments, according to Leonard Irwin, director of the board's planning section. He said the board will provide \$2 million in missionary salary increases in 1981 in an attempt to keep up with inflation.

"The money will also insure appointment of 33 new missionaries in 1981," he added.

This year's offering emphasis was delayed by a late Easter date and a snowstorm which blanketed parts of the southeast on the opening Sunday of Home Missions Week further slowed giving.

Because of the delays, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, wrote a letter to each pastor requesting him to do "something special" to promote the offering.

In a telephone interview, Weatherford said: "I really didn't have enough faith that we would reach the goal after the bad weather, so this really encourages me."

"Response to the offering is an indication of increasing interest in missions at home," she said. With Saudi Arabia allocating several million dollars for Islamic missions in the United States, Weatherford added "home" missions has become "foreign" mis-

sions. "We are very slow to grasp the concept that those who need to hear the gospel are not just in foreign countries."

Irwin said despite trouble economy, "recession did not keep down the giving. I believe it says to us the churches are concerned about giving."

Mississippi Baptists Give Beyond Their Promises

Mississippi Baptists experienced their fourth million-dollar month in history and their third for this year when they contributed \$1,147,041 to missions through the Cooperative Program during July, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The first million-dollar month was October of 1979, when the missions gifts were \$1,018,812. The months during this year when gifts have gone over the \$1 million figure were January and April in addition to July. The record for one month's gifts was established in January when they were \$1,221,296.

Probably the July gifts represented the largest increase in history when compared with the same month of the previous year. The increase for this July over last year was \$439,788, a 62.2 percent increase. This was not the

largest percentage increase on record, however. That distinction evidently belongs to April, when the increase over the same month of the previous year amounted to 64.3 percent.

The \$6,703,708 contributed by the Mississippi churches so far this year amounts to almost \$1 million more than for the same period of last year, Kelly pointed out. The actual figure is \$985,210, an increase of 17.2 percent.

The pro rata budget for seven months would amount of \$6,560,750 with an annual budget of \$11,247,000. This would mean that for the year to date the missions income is \$142,958 above the budget figure.

The last figure is the most encouraging of all, Kelly said, for it represents the experience throughout the year. Million-dollar months are the result of previous months ending on Sunday or (Continued on page 3)

Prayer Is A Two-Way Street: Others Are Praying For Us

By Pat Bellinger

It works both ways, you know. You pray for me and I'll pray for you.

Prayers during a Sunday morning worship, other than the pastoral prayer with directed requests, usually have a certain sameness. The worshiper finds he prays his own prayer, not really being led in prayer.

So it was with me today when one of the newer (not younger) preachers was called on to pray. I didn't listen, but prayed silently for concerns I had. Suddenly my attention flashed to that preacher and his prayer. I heard him asking God to bring relief and blessing of those 16 states in the United States that were affected by the extreme heat.

From that moment Samuel Hill led me in prayer, as he prayed specifically

for other needy areas of the world. His heart had been touched by conditions of people in many places. News reports had become to him accounts of things he should put before the Lord.

Just a few months ago Christians in the United States heard the news about Liberia's coup and prayed for Liberia. Today a Liberian Christian prayed for a problem in the United States. And I remembered—it wasn't the first time and it won't be the last. For example: many Liberians will pray in the next months as the United States elects a President.

You pray for me and I'll pray for you.

Pat Bellinger is Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Liberia.



All "Tide" Up

Mike Parker, a Home Mission Board student summer missionary, entertains and ministers at resorts with "magic." Using these tricks, he illustrates Christian principles. (BP) Photo by Tami Wilson, Home Mission Board.

Magic Draws Crowds For This Missionary

By Tami Wilson

ATLANTA (BP) — Nothing happens when the magician slides a foot-long needle through the large, white balloon. No sounds are heard other than spectators whispering, "How's he do that?"

He doesn't reveal his secret, but the 18-year-old magician applies a Christian theme to the trick.

"With Jesus Christ in our lives, sin can no longer destroy us," he explains as he safely pushes the needle through the balloon. Then, lightly touching the needle against the delicate surface, "Without Jesus, sin can destroy our lives like a needle can destroy this balloon." The balloon explodes.

Some spectators call him "Mike the Magnificent," or "Magic Mike from Mississippi," but many tourists know him as Mike Parker — Southern Baptist Home Mission Board student summer missionary.

Every week Parker, a McComb, Miss., native and student at Mississippi College, moves to a different resort, supplementing mission work, entertaining and ministering with "magic." He uses tricks to illustrate Christian values, but he emphasizes he doesn't have "magic power."

"There are a lot of magicians claiming they have magical power. All of my tricks have logical explanations," he stresses. "I don't want to confuse anybody and make them think I have any power; what I do want to get across is the power of God."

Most of the Christian applications in Parker's shows are original. He develops his own themes because tricks with gospel applications are hard to find, he says.

"I don't think 'magic' itself has any correlation with Christianity, but it's an excellent tool for teaching Christian principles," Parker says. "It keeps people's attention, it's interesting and you can really say something through it."

The summer missionary's performances attract people for different reasons. Some seek entertainment, others come because of curiosity. "Magic is something different; you don't see it everyday. Besides, people like to be fooled," Parker says.

Many times the audience believes they have a trick figured out, only to discover Parker outsmarts them.

"I've been fooled by magicians too, but it's really bad when we let Satan fool us. He wants to deceive us. Let magicians fool you, but let Jesus lead your life," Parker advises.

Response to his unusual talent and the incorporation of Christian themes has been good. "I'm sure not everybody agrees with what I'm doing, but nobody has really come out and told me," he says. "The only ones who approached me had good things to say."

Parker says moving nine times in 10 weeks is strenuous but his biggest frustration is not staying in one place long enough to see any results. His greatest reward "would be to see someone accept Christ." He plans on seminary and perhaps later do some kind of mission work.

But he says he will always hold on to magic tricks, because "no matter what setting I'm in, I think they're always appropriate."

Tami Wilson is a Home Mission Board Summer Intern.

Calhoun City "Missionaries" Stay, Minister In Mississippi

By Jim Keyser, Minister of Music, Youth, and Education

First Church, Calhoun City

Twenty-one youths and adults, from First Church, Calhoun City, were "missionaries for a week" in June. They worked in three areas of Mississippi six days providing ministries in music, Bible study, and personal testimony.

Instead of traveling north, as so often is the custom, the group sought to minister within their home state. Upon completion of a mission tour in Michigan last year, we were impressed by the fact that the needs in our own state were as great, in some areas, as Michigan's, yet few, if any, were coming here to help out. Obviously, the costs of such a trip within the state would be less because of reduced mileage and fewer days and nights in transit to and from the mission site.

Many of the "missionaries" were veterans of the trip to Michigan and their experiences proved valu-

able. Early in the year, associational directors of missions in the state were told that a group of people in Calhoun City were looking for mission areas in Mississippi that could use their assistance. They were advised that Calhoun City was prepared to: 1. Stage a musical (indoors or out); 2. Canvass neighborhoods; 3. Conduct Backyard Bible Clubs; and 4. Would require only space for sleeping bags (and a place to shower, if possible); 5. Would require a kitchen. (They prepared their own meals. Eight of the group were on a permanent cook crew. After each meal non-cooking cooks cleaned up); 6. Would require no love offerings or other support.

The response was excellent. We began training in Backyard Bible Club work in April during Church Training time. The plan was to conduct Backyard Bible Clubs in our home town the week before the mission tour, to prepare for work on the field.

Monday, June 16, we began work in

Calhoun City with five teams, each led by an adult. On Sunday night we presented the musical, "Lightshine" for our church and our group was commissioned.

Our first area of service was Beatline Church, south of Philadelphia. The pastor, Byron Kornegay, had asked us to sing in his church on Monday night and to conduct Backyard Bible Clubs the next morning. We appreciated Kornegay's efforts all the more because he is one of the SBC's many bi-vocational pastors and, for him, time is a precious commodity.

The response to the musical was good and, in spite of rain, we managed to conduct one Backyard Bible Club group in the sanctuary before we departed Tuesday morning.

That afternoon we arrived at New Haven Church near Terry, (which is led by Bill Watson, also a bi-vocational pastor). After setting up the sound equipment in the sanctuary, we began canvassing the area to assist the mission church in preparing for a revival to be held later in the summer.

Canvassing at its best is hard work, but when it's done in a rural area with temperatures in the high nineties, it takes real motivation on the part of the canvassers.

Wednesday morning, the Backyard Bible Clubs were held as scheduled, (this time without rain). That afternoon, we canvassed again for two more hours and then returned for a little rest. After a wonderful covered-dish supper, furnished by the members of the church, we presented "Lightshine" as part of their Wednesday evening service.

The next morning we packed up and left early for our last mission stop...

Parkview Chapel near Picayune. The chapel is a mission of Union Baptist Church which is about two miles away. The parent church allowed us to use their facilities for sleeping and eating, because of the size limitations of the chapel. Richard (Sonny) Blye is the

(Continued on page 2)



First Church youths board the van to go canvassing for New Haven Church near Terry.

Foreign Board Will Budget Almost \$90 Million For '81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — In an effort to bring its budget more in line with anticipated income and needs, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board set a figure of almost \$90 million to be used in planning for the 1981 budget.

The board estimated its total available funds for next year at \$89,948,366, a 17.2 percent increase over the 1980 budget of \$76,760,167.

President R. Keith Parks said the budget recommendation had been carefully considered and represents the board's intention of budgeting more items that formerly were met by special appropriations during the year. The final budget will be submitted to the board in October.

The total for 1981 includes the full \$45 million of the 1980 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal, \$36,059,006 set up under the Cooperative Program budget, plus designated gifts and other anticipated income.

The action came at the board's July meeting, where it also approved 28 new missionaries, bringing to a record 218 the number approved in a 30-day period. The total includes a record 130 missionary journeymen commissioned July 18 in Richmond for two years' service overseas and six former missionaries who have been reappointed. Fifty-four new missionaries were named June 25.

Because of worldwide inflation and the increased percentage of both Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon funds required to support Southern Baptist missionary personnel overseas, the board is exploring supplementary ways to help provide capital funding for badly needed church buildings overseas and other projects.

One of these plans, a capital fund made possible by special gifts, was tapped in July as the board approved two churches to receive the first money from this fund.

The board also authorized appoint-

ment of a search committee for a new director of development and of another committee to recommend the concepts for the development program. The development director will head up one-to-one efforts to challenge prospective large donors to meet specific needs.

One of the first major projects expected to be financed in this way is the new missionary orientation center to be built near Richmond by 1983. The board authorized naming of a building committee to begin specific planning for the new multiple-use center on a 233-acre tract at Rockville, Va.

Parks said the Foreign Mission Board will always regard the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering as the lifelines upon which it depends for its ongoing support. But he said the one-to-one approach to meet capital needs is consistent with the Business and Financial Plan of the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention and is intended to tap sources of money which would not otherwise be reached for the support of Southern Baptist mission causes.

Two new churches in Mexico City and Guatemala City will receive the first \$30,000 in the capital fund for new churches. The initial \$10,000 will go to Peniel Baptist Church, a strategic new congregation in a heavily populated area of Mexico City. The next \$20,000 which comes into this fund will go to a new congregation in Guatemala's capital city.

Board member Morris Cobb of Amarillo, Texas, who spearheaded efforts to create the new capital fund, said it will help Southern Baptists achieve their Bold Mission Thrust goal of tenfold multiplication of churches overseas by the year 2000. Much of the money will be made available through revolving loan funds so it can help other churches in the future as it is repaid by the original recipient.

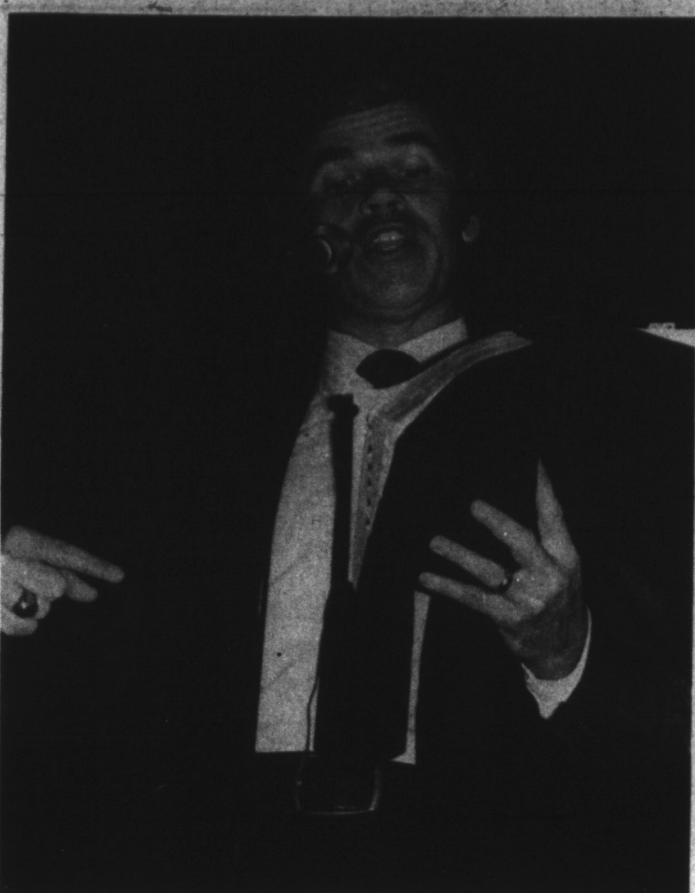
Cobb said it provides a way through which potential donors of \$1,000 or more can be challenged to give without

conflicting with the ongoing Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering giving.

The board also appropriated \$203,876 for hunger and relief projects, invited Missouri Baptists to cooperate in a three-year major city evangelization project in Taiwan, and voted another \$420 annual hike in the cost-of-living supplement for missionaries furloughing in the United States, effective Jan. 1, 1981. Overseas cost-of-living adjustments were approved for missionaries in 27 countries, effective Aug. 1, to help offset the effects of inflation and reduced buying power of the American dollar.

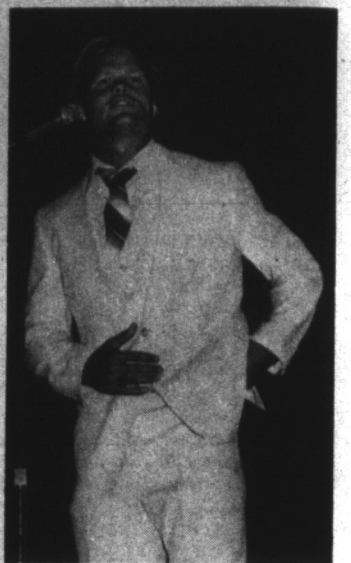
The board heard greetings from Baptist leaders from Thailand and Korea who visited Richmond after attending the Baptist World Congress in Toronto, Canada.

Pastor Pitakanon Boonkrong, secretary of the Thailand Baptist Convention, said the responsiveness of Thai people to the gospel in recent years has increased the need for more missionaries to serve as church planters, Christian education specialists to teach the fundamentals of witnessing and discipleship development, and counselors who can work with young people from broken homes or those involved with drug usage.

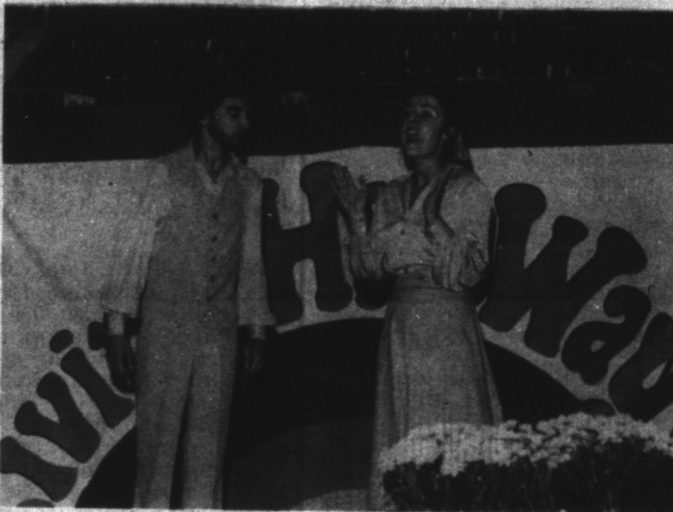


Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., tells the thousands of youths assembled at Youth Night last week "life is not going to let you stand uncommitted." He said everyone is committed to something. He said in every group there are some non-Christians. "One person who is standing tall with God can be a blessing to the whole group," he said. (Tim Nicholas Photos)

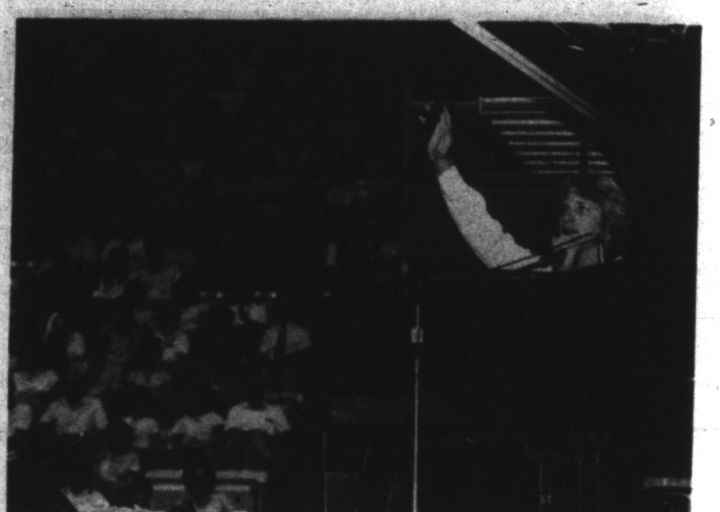
Youth Night '80



Steadman Shealy, quarterback of the University of Alabama football team gives his Christian testimony. Forced into witnessing at a disco, Steadman said he wound up winning several people to Christ at the disco. "Stretch your life," he said, "by allowing God to live through you."



The After Dinner Players of Houston, Tex., told the story of Jonah. Pictured here, "Jonah" is trying to escape from God by going on a cruise. The "ticket seller" tells him the ship is going to Nineveh. He runs.



Musician Paul Smith of Waco, Tex., played a mean piano, singing his composition, "You Can't Find Jesus in the Yellow Pages."

Brotherhood Commission Adds Staff, Sets Forum

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission added two associate directors in its Baptist Men's division and replaced an editor in the Royal Ambassador division in a series of actions by the agency's executive committee at its quarterly meeting.

Added to the Baptist Men's division were Larry Yoder, 36, of Richmond, Va., who will specialize in curriculum and training, and Frank Black, current staff member, who will major on men's ministry projects.

Yoder was associate secretary of the Baptist Men's department for Virginia Baptists. Black, a 25-year employee of the commission, directed the Crusader department in the Royal Ambassador division.

David Haney, division director, called the creation of the two new staff positions the initial step in preparing a major new thrust in lay involvement in behalf of Bold Mission Thrust.

"The goal of one million men in missions during the 1980s is an integral part of these staff additions and of a new approach in curriculum training," he added.

James B. Johnson, 52, of Pine Bluff, Ark., was elected editor of Pioneer materials, including Probe and Pioneer Plans magazines.

Johnson, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, for 13 years, filled a vacancy left by Mike Davis, who recently became director of the editorial services department.

In other action, the committee approved a concept for challenging laymen to become involved in Bold Mission Thrust, the denomination's

plan for sharing the gospel with the world by the year 2000.

The action followed a discussion of suggestions made at 10 lay utilization conferences conducted throughout the United States in April and May by the agency at the request of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. The concept calls for a forum of the 400 concerned Baptist laymen invited to the recent lay utilization conferences.

The committee also discussed the possibility of a national men's meeting just prior to the 1982 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans but delayed action until a 75th anniversary committee for the agency could make a report.

Norman Godfrey, associate executive director of the commission, was named chairman of the anniversary committee, made up of staff, trustees and state Brotherhood leaders.

Everett Lemay, pastor of First Baptist Church, Albion, Ill., was appointed chairman of a committee to explore a possible name change for the commission. The committee will report to agency trustees at a meeting on Nov. 5-7.

Executive Director James H. Smith reported he received a written apology from the national office of Boy Scouts of America and an explanation that scouting representatives had no authority to propose a merger of Boy Scouts and Royal Ambassador programs in Southern Baptist churches.

Smith also briefed the committee on the doctrinal integrity resolution passed at the SBC in June and assured the trustees their agency would comply.

Sunday School Board Increases Literature Prices, Center Fees

By Linda Lawson
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board approved a record 1980-81 operating budget of \$107.6 million and authorized a two-year test project for reaching unchurched persons in densely populated areas.

The project will test a strategy for reaching people that does not demand the usual amount of church land, buildings and centralized meetings.

In a wide-ranging report in which he characterized the state of the agency as "healthy," board President Grady Cothen said the monthly circulation for the board's home Bible study program has reached 185,000.

"This is a great ministry," Cothen said. "We have concluded it will never pay for itself, but the ministry must continue as one of the non-profit services provided through sales of literature and other products."

The 1980-81 budget represents an increase of \$12 million over the projected 1979-80 income of \$95.6 million and is the first budget of any Southern Baptist Convention agency to exceed \$100 million.

Trustees approved an increase in the church literature pricing formula which will result in an average increase in literature prices of 8.9 percent, a rate Cothen noted is 5.3 percent

below the 14.2 percent inflation rate for the fiscal year ending June 30.

"We're happy about the real growth we're experiencing," Cothen said. He said the board is exploring ways to market materials through new distribution channels in the United States and several foreign countries.

However, he said, "For us to stay financially well in the present circumstances requires daily attention."

Trustees also approved an increase in the conference services fee and the food services fees at Glorieta and Ridgecrest, effective in the summer of 1981. There will be no increase in housing rates.

For persons in the seventh grade and above, the conference services fee will be increased from \$22 to \$24 and the weekly food services rate will be increased from \$49.50 to \$54.90.

The experimental outreach project approved by the trustees will be conducted by the board in cooperation with West Memorial Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, and 60 other Southern Baptist churches in highly populated areas. Trustees appropriated \$40,000 toward the project.

Ralph Neighbour Jr., pastor of the Houston church, will direct the two-year West Memorial Project to begin in October 1980.

Morton Rose, vice president of

church programs and services, said the strategy represents "an innovation in methods for performing the tasks of the church." Sunday School and morning worship are conducted at the church but training, missions, ministries, prayer, and personal evangelism efforts take place at a variety of locations and times.

Rose emphasized the project is a test, and said, "We are not at this time recommending the West Memorial strategy to Southern Baptist churches."

Cothen reported that several attendance records have been set during summer conference weeks at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Conference Centers.

Because the Centrifuge youth camp conducted by the church recreation department at each center was filled each week, he announced the addition in 1981 of camps at Mobile (Ala.) College and Hannibal-LaGrange (Mo.) College.

Also approved were the addition of a quarterly Young Musicians Resource Kit and a quarterly publication for church organists and pianists, "Pedalpoint," both beginning in October 1981.

Changes approved in existing church literature products, effective October 1982, included:

—changing "Collegiate Bible Study" in title and focus to "Single Adult Bible Study";

—combining "Sunday School Youth A" and "Sunday School Youth B" into one periodical, "Sunday School Youth";

—changing the titles of "Exploring A" and "Exploring C" church training children's products to "Exploring I" and "Exploring II."

The trustees authorized a study of the salary scale for professional employees at the board.

Ted Sisk, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., was elected chairman of the trustees. Other officers elected were Robert Taylor, a Nashville attorney, as vice-chairman and chairman of the executive committee, and Henry Love, minister of church administration at First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., recording secretary.

Hilversum, Holland — Frances Schaeffer, Malcolm Muggeridge, Georgi Vins and Festo Kivengere are among the plenary session speakers at the Strategic World Conference for Evangelical Communicators, sponsored by Evangelische Omroep, the evangelical broadcasting organization of Holland, October 27-30, 1980 at the RAI Conference Centre in Amsterdam.

Church Growth Conferences Continue

The Church Growth Conferences which began Aug. 18 and 19 in Senatobia and Winona, respectively, continue on Aug. 25 and 26.

The Aug. 25 session will be at First Church, Laurel; the Aug. 26 session at First Church, McComb.

Purpose of these programs which began at 7 p.m., are to offer training in growth measures through conversion, revival preparation, Sunday School outreach, "people search," and training and using outreach leaders.

A general session on evangelism will conclude each program.

Calhoun Baptists

(Continued from page 1)

full-time pastor of the chapel and was most helpful to us and made it possible for us to have highly successful Backyard Bible Club meetings the morning after our outdoor presentation near the mission.

After the Bible club groups were dismissed, we left for New Orleans where we spent the night in a motel and toured the campus of New Orleans Seminary.

Del City Crusade Results In 1,353 Conversions

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP) — A three-week "Starlite Crusade" conducted outdoors by First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., resulted in 1,353 professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Bailey Smith, pastor of the church and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said more than 200 more professions of faith were made in other churches as a result of the 14th annual crusade.

The meeting, extended an extra week because of the response, was conducted in the Del City High School stadium. There were crowds of 4,000 to 6,000 every night and Smith said "it literally seemed like the Holy Spirit was hovering over the area."

"God was just trying to tell us the days of revival are not over, that the best days are still ahead," said Smith, who baptized 881 people into membership in his church during the crusade.

First Southern, Del City, which has led the Southern Baptist Convention in baptisms five of the past six years, has baptized 1,658 persons through the first 10 months of the year. The single year high for baptisms in the convention is the 1,669 baptized to First Baptist in Houston in 1971.

Home Board Sets Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Goal For 1981

By Marv Knox
ATLANTA (BP) — Allocation of a \$17.25 million Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal for 1981 was approved by directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during their summer meeting.

The allocation divides the offering into three basic categories: support of Home Mission Board missionaries and field ministries, \$12.5 million; support of special projects, \$2.1 million; and advance in critical areas, \$2.35 million.

Eight areas of work are included in the missionary and field ministries category. These are evangelism projects, \$955,000; church extension, \$2.73 million; Christian social ministries, \$1.95 million; language missions, \$4.22 million; interfaith witness, \$222,000; black church relations, \$634,000; chaplaincy ministries, \$129,000; and associational missions, \$1.96 million.

Funds set aside in the special pro-

jects category will be distributed to 26 areas of work. They range from financing the service of more than 1,000 summer missionaries to providing Woman's Missionary Union literature in foreign languages to increasing missionary salaries and funding leadership training for bivocational pastors.

All funds received in excess of the \$17.25 million goal will be used for Bold Mission Thrust efforts in evangelism and missions. Bold Mission Thrust is the convention goal of presenting the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000.

"These allocations have not been taken lightly," said Howard Cockrum of Knoxville, Tenn., president of the board. "Each item has been taken seriously in light of what we're trying to do — spread the good news of Jesus Christ."

"It's obvious that these allocations will ultimately depend on the effec-

tiveness of the offering," said William G. Tanner, Home Mission Board executive director-treasurer. "The fate of much of our mission work is dependent upon the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering."

Approximately one-half of the board's operating expenses are underwritten by the offering. The Southern Baptist Cooperative Program is the other primary source of revenue, and other gifts and related sources contribute a smaller amount.

Speaking to the directors before they approved the allocation, Tanner noted that the 1980 Annie Armstrong offering is less than \$50,000 from its goal of \$15.3 million. He said the offering is 16.4 percent ahead of the same time last year and added that projections indicated the offering will surpass its goal and reach \$16 million.

"We realize how essential the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is in this

period of time when we are striving to reach the aims of Bold Mission Thrust," Tanner said. "I'm grateful Southern Baptists are responding so well to this offering. 'It's obvious that they have rallied behind this cause.'"

While praising the board's offering, Tanner also reaffirmed the value of the Cooperative Program, the convention's unified budget. "There's not a better lifeline to evangelism and missions," he added.

"The foundation of what Southern Baptists have done in the past 55 years can be directly linked to churches' participation in the Cooperative Program," he added. "That's because it has enabled us to do cooperatively what we could never, never do acting individually."

"The Cooperative Program means more to Southern Baptists than just dollars," he said. "It's the element which holds us together."

Three Missionaries Stay In Jackson To Minister

By Tim Nicholas

Four Mississippi Baptist young people spent their summer helping make a dent in the Bold Mission Thrust challenge to provide a witness to the world by the end of the century.

The four worked for 10 weeks at the Baptist Mission Center in Jackson, on Whitfield Mills Road, a program of the Hinds-Madison Baptist Association. Their primary responsibility was to work with the children in the neighborhood, teaching basic Christianity to the kids.

They enrolled a total of 52 children in Vacation Bible School.

As to the changes in the children's lives, Keith O'Neal, a sophomore at Mississippi College and member of Jackson's Parkway Church, said "we may not be able to see (changes) now, but we're trying to put the seed down. We expose them to Jesus and what He has to say." He adds, "A lot of these kids need Christian love and respond to it."

Phil says he enjoyed seeing the children operate hand puppets they made. The puppets recited memory verses. "Their facial expressions showed they enjoyed that," says Phil.

Phil believes he's come away from his summer experience "more thankful" for what he has. He says a lot of people "think you have to go away from here." He knows now, "there is a need for Christian witnessing here and not far off somewhere." He adds, "It's hard work."

Cindy Covington, a junior at Mississippi State and member at Broadmoor Church in Jackson, says she feels such a program makes a dent in the witnessing needs of the world. If not, "These kids wouldn't be coming up here." She notes that a lot of their parents talk as if they would like to attend a Bible study. "A lot are asking about God."

Cindy finds herself "praying more regularly, studying the Bible more regularly," as a result of her summer work. She says when she gets back to school, she will have more patience in class because "God gave me the patience to work with these kids."

Trish Filgo, a junior at Mississippi College and member of First Church, Canton, who like Cindy and Phil, have

worked earlier summers at the center, says she believes the kids leave happy. "I hope in the years to come they'll learn more and accept Christ as savior." She says the Bible studies will stay with them.

Phil DeVeer, who will be a junior at Manhattan Academy and is a member of Ridgecrest Church in Jackson, feels the group helped the children learn more about Christ. But he is amazed that more Baptists don't know about



VBS includes trying one's hand at art.

the mission center. "I think our churches ought to be more informed and involved in places like this in their own city," he says.

These four young Mississippians can only speculate about the changed lives of the children in their Bible and recreation program, but they are certain about the changes in their own lives.

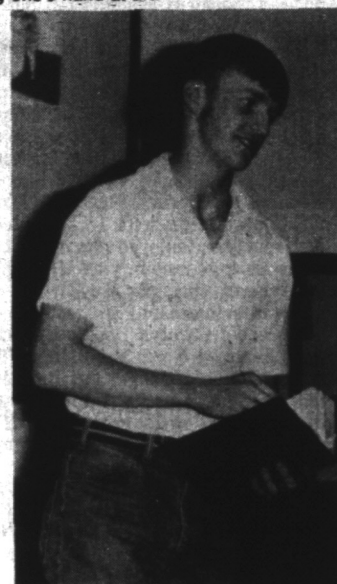
"(Luther and Katherine Tucker direct the Baptist Mission Center which sponsors the summer program. Next week's Baptist Record will report on their work.)"

No one can be reasonable and angry at the same time.

Do not forget that the Holy Spirit must have a holy spirit with which to abide. — Henry W. Bennett.



Trish Filgo sets stars for those in attendance at Bible school



Phil DeVeer tells a Bible story.



And VBS includes finding Bible verses.

WMU Houseparty Theme: "My Spiritual Gifts"

By Wilda Fancher

A variety of workshops and specialty conferences at the WMU Houseparty at Garaywa, Sept. 12-14, will complete a program of Bible study, missions emphasis and methods conferences.

The theme for this first-ever WMU Houseparty is "Discovering and Using MY Spiritual Gifts."

Specialty conferences include "Learning About People of Other Faiths," led by Mrs. Hollis Bryant, who with her husband, served in Alaska before he became a consultant in the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Ethel McKeithen, Mississippi WMU consultant for Baptist Women, will lead a conference on "Christian Growth." Leading conferences on family relationships will be James and Wilda Fancher, husband-wife relationships, and Mrs. Joe Barber, Jr., parent-child relationships. Mrs. Guy Henderson will lead a conference on "Nurturing Mission Volunteers, Missionaries, MKs."

Among the workshops offered will be one on "How to Have a Prayer Retreat," led by Ethel McKeithen, "How to Have a Parents Meeting," by Waudine Storey, "How to Have a Recognition Service," by Mrs. Dot Porter, and "How to Pray for Missions and Missionaries" led by Mrs. Guy Henderson.

Mrs. Barber, Mississippi College faculty member, is president of the Mississippi Association on Children Under Six, an affiliate of Southern Association on Children Under Six.



Henderson

Barber

Mrs. Henderson of Clinton and her husband, Guy, served as missionaries in Korea, then in the Philippines, before he became a consultant in the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The WMU Houseparty is planned for members and officers of Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women, for all general WMU officers, and for directors and leaders of the age-level organizations. It is also planned for the prospective member, officer, director and leader.

Beginning with supper at six on Friday night, the Houseparty closes with a 10:30 brunch on Sunday following Sunday School and morning worship.

Cost for the weekend is \$22 per person. Reservations may be made by mailing name, address and phone number, and name of church, along with the \$22 per person, to WMU Houseparty, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Deadline for registration is September 8. No refunds will be made after September 10.

Mrs. Sisemore Will Lead Conference: "Teaching Adults"

Mrs. John Sisemore, wife of the minister of education at First Church, Shreveport, La., will lead conferences during an adult Sunday School leadership clinic, Aug. 29, at First Church, Grenada.

Invited to the program are ministers of adult education, adult division and department directors, adult class officers, and teachers, ministers of education, and pastors.

The meeting will include a banquet, which will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at 9:50.

This one night Mrs. Sisemore clinic is designed to help church leadership enroll adults and lead them to commit themselves to a Christian lifestyle.

John Sisemore will talk at the banquet on the topic, "Improving the Quality of Adult Teaching."

In conferences after the banquet, James Rennell, director of church services for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Fellowship, will speak on "Reaching Adults." John Sisemore will speak on "Leading Adults," and Mrs. Sisemore, an adult work specialist, will speak on "Teaching Adults."

For reservations to the banquet (which costs \$4 to be paid at the door) write: Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Church attendance is determined more by desire than by distance.

It is not what is poured into a student but what is planted that counts.

Happy is the man who renounces anything that places a strain upon his conscience.

Gulfshore To Be Setting For WMU Manuals Study

The setting for WMU manuals study October 3-4, Friday night and Saturday, will be the white sands, blue waters and red-gold sunsets at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at Henderson Point on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Each age-level manual will be taught, and Church Study Course credit will be awarded for the five-hour study classes. The study is planned for all General WMU officers, officers and members of Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women, directors and leaders of Acteens, GA and Mission Friends.

Two rates for this activity, beginning Friday with supper and concluding with lunch on Saturday, are available. The \$15.75 rate includes supper,

breakfast and lunch, with 5-8 persons per room. The \$17.75 rate includes supper, breakfast and lunch, with 2-4 persons per room.

Reservations may be made by sending a registration fee of \$2.75 per person, along with name, address and telephone number, to Manual Study, WMU, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. The registration fee is applied to the total payment, leaving a balance to be paid at Gulfshore of \$13 or \$15, depending on the type of accommodations desired. Do not send reservations to Gulfshore.

Deadline for reservations is Sept. 1. Cancellations may be refunded to September 1. After that date, the deposit of \$2.75 will be forfeited.

Mississippians Earn Leadership Diplomas

The following leadership diplomas have been received by Mississippi church organizational leaders during the quarter, April-May-June, 1980.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Tom O. Winstead, Calvary, Hinds-Madison; Mrs. Frances Bullock, Woodhaven, Jackson; Walter D. Gatewood, Plainway, Jones.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Mrs. Linda Pratt, West Corinth, Alcorn; Mrs. J. S. Barnett, Calvary, Hinds-Madison; Mrs. John Gates, Calvary, Hinds-Madison.

SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Mrs. Bitzy Rainer, First, Corinth, Alcorn; Tom Winstead, Calvary, Hinds-Madison; Don Lum, First, Columbia, Marion; Patricia B. Lum, First, Columbia, Marion.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GENERAL OFFICER LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Mrs. Mildred B. Little, Pinehill, Clarke.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESCHOOL LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Tom O. Winstead, Calvary, Hinds-Madison.

W.M.U. OFFICERS LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Mrs. Mildred S. Little, Pinehill, Clarke; Mrs. Robert V. Smirs, First, Jackson, Hinds-Madison.

W.M.U. GIRLS IN ACTION LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Mrs. Wini Harris, Woodhaven, Jackson.

CHURCH TRAINING CHILDRENS LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Mrs. Vivian Reeves, Broadmoor, Hinds-Madison; Mrs. Wini Harris, Wood-

aven, Jackson; Mrs. Charlene Matthews, Plainway, Jones; Mrs. Pat Howard, Plainway, Jones; Mrs. W. C. McCurdy, Plainway, Jones; Mrs. Beth Patrick, Plainway, Jones.

CHURCH TRAINING ADULT LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Walter D. Gatewood, Plainway, Jones.

CHURCH RECREATION LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Rod Moody, Oak Forest, Hinds-Madison; Ken Enloe, First, Greenwood, Leflore.

DEACON MINISTRY DIPLOMA: Bruce W. Doherty, Clear Creek, Wayne; Gail Hall, Clear Creek, Wayne; Jimmy Shirley, Clear Creek, Wayne.

CHURCH MUSIC CHILDRENS LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Mrs. Rhonda Williamson, First, Lexington, Holmes; Mrs. Patsy S. Payne, Sunrise, Lebanon.

Baptists Give

(Continued from page 1)

Monday so that some of the previous month's gifts are necessarily counted the following month. "While the million-dollar months are exciting and are welcomed, it is the fact that we are almost \$150,000 ahead of the budget for the entire year that gives us the greatest cause for rejoicing," he said. "This is the kind of experience that can mean the most for our world-wide missions endeavor, for our Bold Missions efforts, for Christian education, and for the entire spectrum of witnessing in which Baptists are engaged."

Thursday, August 21, 1980

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Alaska Names Meeks Executive Director

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP) — Allen Meeks, interim executive director-treasurer of the Alaska Baptist Convention, has been named executive at the 35th annual meeting of the convention.

Meeks was unanimously elected by the 225 messengers attending the meeting at Faith Baptist Church in Anchorage.

Messengers also approved a budget of \$855,415, of which was \$317,000 will come from the 69 churches and mis-

sions of the convention. Also, messengers restored cuts made in an austerity move in 1979 to the convention's contribution to the national Cooperative Program.

Last year, the contribution was cut from 29 to 25 percent, but this year, the cut was restored and augmented, going to 30 percent.

In addition to electing Meeks, messengers also elected Ferrell Mills of Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage, as president. Other officers are: Al Allen, Moose Creek Baptist Church, Fairbanks, first vice president, and Roy Williams, First Baptist Church, Kenai, second vice president.

John Allen, missions director, was given additional responsibilities as leader of evangelism.

Meeks, 62, has been a staffer of the convention since November, 1964, when he was named director of religious education. He became interim executive in February of 1979, succeeding Mississippian Troy Prince, who resigned, citing health problems.

Meeks, a native of Arkansas, moved to Alaska in 1960, and was on the staffs of Sunset Hills, Jewel Lake, and First churches, all in Anchorage.

He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

The 1981 meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention will be Aug. 11-13 at First Baptist Church, Soldotna.

Texans Thankful Allen Slowed Before Hitting

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (BP) — South Texas Baptists were wind-blown and rain-soaked, but prayerfully glad Hurricane Allen lost some strength before slugging ashore Aug. 10.

Even though the first hurricane of 1980 was not as destructive as predicted, it did cause widespread flood, wind and tornado damage. At least two deaths in Texas have been credited to the storm, at one time called the second strongest hurricane of the century.

The storm drew disaster relief units from four state conventions: Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi,

in what was said to be the first such cooperative venture.

The storm, however, was not as bad as predicted. It stalled offshore for more than 12 hours, losing part of its potent punch. When it moved ashore, it took a less heavily populated path. Even at that, it set off heavy flooding in some sectors, touched off tornadoes across South Central Texas and its wind—even though diminished—caused some damage.

Corpus Christi was in the direct path of the diminished storm. Only two churches—Primera Iglesia Bautista in Flower Bluff and Gardendale Baptist Church—were extensively damaged. The Baptist Student Center at Del Mar College also was damaged. Other churches received slight water damage from heavy rainfall.

Further down the coast, in the Rio Grande Valley Association, the same was reported: little damage to Baptist properties. The only reported destruction was to the Santa Rosa Mission, where the roof was blown away.

In Harlingen, two Baptist institutions, Valley Baptist Medical Center

and Valley Baptist Academy escaped with minor damage.

The medical center was without power or water for a short time and a temporary building was unroofed at the academy.

Further upstate, tornadoes spawned by Allen touched down in Bishop, San Marcos and Austin.

As the hurricane moved toward Texas, Disaster Relief Units from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi moved into place to help feed and provide other aid to the storm's victims.

In the immediate aftermath, the Louisiana unit was stationed at the National Guard Armory in Robstown, and the Mississippi unit served at Morgan Avenue Baptist Church in Corpus Christi.

Heavy flooding caused problems in the Robstown-Bishop areas and three of the units—Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana—were stationed there to feed evacuees and provide other relief. The Mississippi Unit was released to return home Aug. 11.

Meridian Men Cross Country To Construct A Church

Fourteen men from the Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church in Meridian recently flew to San Diego, Calif. to help construct a building for the Ramona Southern Baptist Church.

The men were: M. L. Coleman, Gary Gibson, Tommy Dale Gunn, George Church, Billy Ethridge, Wayne Herrington, Bill Jacob, Dennis Salley, Jr., Joe Saxon, Jr., Steve Stricklen, C. L. Milling, Doug Wells, Ken Weaver, and Benny Wolfe. Wayne Cobb is Brotherhood Director at Poplar Springs Drive. James A. Ruffin is pastor.

Terry Zook is pastor of the Ramona church, the only Southern Baptist Church in an area of several thousand people.

The volunteers installed felt and roofing, interior partitioning, the choir platform and baptistry, installed ceiling joists, most of the electrical conduit, and they inspected and filled ditches for pipes.

Bill Jacob, volunteer, noted that the locals "could not believe that people would even care, much less travel across the country just to help build a church."

Gary Gibson, work coordinator for the volunteers, said that beyond his personal enrichment, the trip "involved my children in an appreciation and understanding of who really goes and does mission work around the globe and how these people and their families lives are changed."

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

At Ridgecrest

A newspaper reporter at a Woman's Missionary Union Conference is not likely to feel at all uncomfortable. The ladies have a knack of making one feel right at home, and that was the experience of the writer a few days ago as I was privileged to attend the WMU conference at Ridgecrest.

It must be said that the ladies surely know how to put on a fine conference. One gets the impression that they also know how to carry on their business in the local church.

I was challenged, I was inspired, and I was strengthened.

Many of the experiences cry out for explanation, and not all can be told in the space available, but an attempt must be made.

First, a young lady with her roots deep in Mississippi deserves a great deal of recognition. She is Tammy Walker, and her grandmother, Minnie Walker, lives in Greenville. Her preacher father, Thomas Walker, organized Emmanuel Baptist Church in Greenville. He has in recent years been a pastor in Huntsville, Ala., but is shortly to move to a Tennessee pastorate.

Tammy is a student at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and she is as bright and as personable a young person as will be found. She is a communications major, and a part of her talent and experience lies in mime. In this fashion she presented the theme interpretation at the opening of each evening's session. She did an excellent job and was the darling of the conference. In private conversation with her I found that she is a fan of Mississippi's Eudora Welty and has used some of her material in presentations.

Mississippi's Dolton and Martha Haggan were there and conducted very informative and interesting conferences concerning their work among the Choctaw Indians in Mississippi.

A week with the WMU

Things we didn't know before were that the Indians conducted their own Vacation Bible School this year rather than asking for outside help, and then a group of them went to Chicago at the request of an Indian group there to work in a Vacation Bible School. So the recipients of missions work have now become the missionaries.

Randall Lolley, the president of Southeastern Seminary, was the Bible teacher for the week. This was a time of spiritual enrichment that would be difficult to surpass as we examined with him the deep spiritual truths that are to be found in Leviticus, Ruth, Esther, and Habakkuk. Along the way he found occasion to make as convincing a statement concerning his faith in the Bible as God's Word as could ever be heard. He did not equivocate in his statement of conviction that it is wholly inspired and is the truth of God.

From contact with such people as Lolley one comes to feel that they are deeply committed, dedicated, spiritually attuned people. One cannot stand in the presence of Duke McCall, president of Southern Seminary, and hear his voice break as he says to 18,000 Baptists from around the world, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever," without feeling that he means it from the very depths of his being. But that is digression from the subject at hand.

It is important to notice, however, that the Southern Baptist Convention has control of its six seminaries. Others, regardless of how fine they may be, are controlled by themselves or some other entity.

Dwelling on the theme for the week, "Life Changing Commitments," Lolley noted Esther's statement—"If I perish, I perish"—to point out that she had found a cause big enough to die for. He recalled Martin Luther's words—

"Here I stand. You cannot direct my conscience"—and declared: "We've already got a Bold Mission. What we need is Bold Commitment."

"God has called people, and all that are required are courage and commitment. He has no Plan B. It takes one something, no matter how small, to make God's everything."

Another impressive personality on the program was Sam James, area representative for the Foreign Mission Board for East Asia. James has been to China twice since diplomatic relations were renewed with that nation and has thrilling accounts to tell of the witness of Christians there. For instance, he tells of the reopening of the Dong Shan Church in Canton, China, by its former pastor, Matthew Tong. James arrived early for a service this past April; and as he waited for the service to begin, he counted the seats. There were 2,200. He said at least 2,300 attended the service inside the auditorium, and many others were outside. Sixty percent of those attending were under 30 years of age, he said. He said the singing was something to be remembered. The church was opened under government auspices, James said; but Pastor Tong said the government had told him simply to preach his religion. He can not get into social action or politics. He must preach strictly from the Bible.

Pastor Tong told James that China does not need missionaries any more. "We once depended on missionaries," he said. "Now we depend on the Lord."

In private conversation James noted that Southern Baptists have missionaries in 95 countries and support their work with \$90 million. "Jerry Falwell," he said, "raises \$90 million annually, and spends it all at home." His statement was made to point out how much more effectively used is the

money directed toward the efforts of the Foreign Mission Board.

Several other Mississippians were conference leaders. They were Marilyn Hopkins, consultant for Baptist Young Women; Ethel McKeithen, consultant for Baptist Women; and Waudine Storey, consultant for Girls in Action and Mission Friends. Wilda Fancher of the Mississippi WMU staff was in charge of a bus load of Mississippians who attended.

Alma Hunt, retired executive director; Carolyn Weatherford, executive director; and Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, president, conducted interesting conferences. And the Baptist Record editor even became a conference personality as a resource person for a conference on publicity conducted by Catherine Allen of the SBC WMU staff, the author of *The New Lottie Moon Story*.

Another nice touch, though not a part of the conference, was a birthday party one night after the session for Susan Ingout, a summer staff member whose parents are missionaries to Indonesia. Susan is a student at Samford. The SBC WMU hosted the party for Susan, and all the staff attended. All of the MKs (missionary kids) on the Ridgecrest summer staff were invited. A number attended, including Amy Myers, a student at Mississippi College. Her parents, the Payton Myers, a Mississippi couple, are missionaries to Nigeria. As the WMU's invited guest for the week I was invited to the party and enjoyed very much the opportunity of meeting the MKs who were there, especially Amy.

It was an interesting and fast-paced conference. Carolyn Hopkins, Marilyn's sister of North Carolina, said, "The WMU is no longer the little old lady with the bun. We still have that image, and we've got to get rid of it."

Such conferences will go a long way in that endeavor.—DTM

"AND WOULDST THOU SPEAK TO THY SERVANTS THE DEACONS THAT THEY TAKE A LOOK AT THE MISERABLE SALARY WHICH THIS UNDERSHEPHERD RECEIVETH."



Faces And Places

Porches In August

I read in the *Clarion-Ledger* that a film on porch culture is being done in Jackson, for television.

Porches I remember have doubled as living rooms, bedrooms, kitchens, play rooms, and even as bathrooms!

One of my earliest memories is that of my uncles, Wendell and Lynwood, sitting in our front porch swing, with their girl friends. The vine that had shaded the swing from the sun by day would only let the moonlight squeeze through, in tiny slivers.

In another place we lived, a wide porch hugged three sides of the house. Betty and I raced with our tricycles there on summer days, wildly ringing the little bells attached to the handlebars. We crawled under the porch, to fish with flower stalks for doodle bugs in the dimpled dirt. Under one sill I discovered a row of holes drilled by bumblebees. My sister and I warned each other: "The blackheaded ones will sting!" (In December we watched for Santa Claus at the north end of the porch, expecting him to land there, I suppose, since he was coming from the North Pole.)

At Grandma Allen's house a sun bleached shelf on the back porch held wash pans, fitted into holes, and a water bucket with its dipper. If you came in from the garden or field, you could wash your hands there, and help yourself to a cool drink of water. Always the unpainted plank shelf was well scrubbed. Occasionally, though, watermelon or cantaloupe seeds stuck to it, for that was the best place for cutting melons in August.

Second week of August, revival time at County Line, I would often spend the day with Aunt Nannie Pearl and Nell, as they lived near the church. In late afternoon, time to get ready for the night service, we would go out on the back porch to wash our faces. It was a treat to pour water from the antique china pitcher into the elegant match-bowl.

Aunt Gladys always kept her back porch full of good things to eat. She shelled butterbeans there, and peeled peaches and tomatoes. (At Mama's house we always shell the peas on the back porch, and sometimes we eat lunch there, too.)

Grandma Washburn's back porch separated the kitchen from the bedrooms, making a naturally air-conditioned breezeway, a marvelous spot for family reunions; the well on one side was handy, to draw water for lemonade. Her front porch was the best place to sun feather beds. Grandma was past 90 when one day he was carrying his bed out to sun, and fell off the porch and broke his hip.

During World War II, when gas was rationed, Sunday evening services were cancelled temporarily at County Line. The teen-agers refused to give up Training Union; we met in homes. In August our favorite meeting spot was the comfortable porch at Martha Nell Woody's. The best Training Union social we ever had was held on the porch, at Cousin Myrt Jennings' house.

The summer after we married, W.D. and I spent many weeknights in the Delta with George and Zelma McWilliams. Hot August nights we fell asleep in a bed on their screened porch, to the music of frogs and whippoorwills.

Mama's porch has always been the place, in summer, to entertain afternoon callers. It is a place where Mama can display her flowers. (If only I had her green thumb!) Daddy built the stands for her ferns a long time ago; she keeps them looking new with yearly coats of white paint.

In August, after Daddy had "laid by" his crop for the year, he always had more time to sit and rest. Late August nights our family sat on the porch and looked at the stars. Far in the distance we could see an airplane beacon light sweeping the sky. Lightning bugs blinked their little flashlights. On the horizon lightning shimmered, and faintly the thunder sounded. A sudden strong breeze cooled our faces, and reminded us that time was passing and fall would soon be on its way.

Weldon Payne, columnist, wrote: "Days, years remembered — people within those days and the essence of life already lived — float in the mind like soap bubbles, already burst and, on a quiet still summer day one reaches and that day, that vivid circle of time, is gone."

Beulah Bester at the Baptist Building and I are always saying to each other, "I wish today were Friday." Then we laugh when we realize we are wishing our lives away. The time to enjoy living is in the present. The saying in the *The Little Gazette* was correct: "The day-by-day pictures you are taking now are the ones that will hang on your walls of memory."

Letter To The Editor

Appreciation from

Missionary

Editor:

On our arrival at the European Baptist Convention's 20th annual summer assembly at Interlaken, someone camping next to us gave us two Mississippi Baptist Records with SBC Convention news — just what we wanted to know. Thanks for doing a great job of reporting.

Dr. John Claypool recently spoke in our church in Rome, Italy.

We had such a remarkable time at First Baptist, Jackson, last December. We feel closer to Mississippi Baptists now.

Helen Rychti (Mrs. Wm. C.)
Press Representative,
Italian Baptist Mission
Via Nemes 21
Rome, Italy 00194

Back to the trenches . . .

A week on the mountain is helpful

Quite unintentionally, this writer was involved in World War II. That doesn't mean I tried to avoid it. In fact, I volunteered. It simply means that if I had been able to exercise a complete freedom of will about the whole thing, I would rather have been doing something else.

The upshot of it all was that eventually I found myself involved in combat. Now that was completely unintentional, but by that time those in charge had quit asking questions.

I did, however, discover the meaning and the value of "going into reserve." In religious circles nowadays we refer to such experiences as being on a retreat, but "retreat" was a situation to be avoided in the Army. What happened was that after an extended period of being "on the line," an Army

unit would "pull back in reserve" to be used if necessary but, more importantly, to renew the energy and the will to carry on the task at hand. It was always tough to leave a reserve area and go back on the line. But it had to be done.

So it is in religious life.

Last week I was in Ridgecrest at the invitation of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. I am the president-elect of the Southern Baptist Press Association, and each year the WMU invites the person holding that position to attend the WMU conference at either Ridgecrest or Glorieta.

On the last evening there Dolton Haggan, the Mississippi missionary to the Choctaw Indians, and I were chatting. Dolton and Martha were on the faculty for the week. Dolton and I dis-

cussed the fact that it was about time to get off of the mountain and go back to the trenches. The week at Ridgecrest was such an inspiring time that it seems it would be nice to live forever in that sort of atmosphere. Peter, James, and John had the same feeling; but the Lord told them it wouldn't do to stay on the mountain. The battle is going on in the trenches. After the end of the age we will live forever in such an atmosphere; but in the meantime, there is a great deal to do to get ready.

We have the times of retreat in order to renew our energy and our will to get back on the line and get at the job. Every Sunday is such a time of retreat. This day has been set aside of every week to give us new strength, courage, and inspiration. We get it from listening to the messages and from fellowship with other Christians.

This is the beginning point for a Bold Mission outreach that will encompass the entire world and also take in that toughest of all mission fields—our own community.—DTM

Guest Opinion . . .

Has the Bible been banned from public schools?

by R. O. Webber

Part II of a two-part series
In 1638, for the first time in history, Roger Williams set up in the colony of Rhode Island a government which guaranteed absolute religious freedom so long as its exercise did not disturb public order. During the latter half of the 18th century, with Rhode Island as an example, the established churches of the other colonies, Virginia, Massachusetts, etc., came under attack. James Madison and Thomas Jefferson led the battle with the establishment in Virginia and in

1784 finally secured the passage of a law declaring that any interference by the civil authorities with religious opinion was against natural right.

This effort led the framers of our Constitution, as adopted in 1787, to provide in Article VI that no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States, and in the "Bill of Rights"—the first 10 amendments, adopted in 1790—we find the First Amendment, to which is attributed, generally, "the doctrine of the separation of Church and State." Article I of the "Bill of Rights" provides: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; . . ."

A similar clause had been voted down in the Constitutional Convention. As a member of the first House of Representatives under the new Constitution, Madison brought it up again. It was adopted by the House and rejected at first by the Senate but later reinstated and thus became a part of the Constitution on June 15, 1790. Prior to the Constitutional Convention, several State Constitutions contained provisions for religious freedom. Now all of them have such provisions. Note, however, that Article I was deemed by some to be a prohibition applicable to the Federal Government and not to apply to the various State Governments.

Note, also, that the ink was hardly dry before religious groups were attempting to abrogate it. In 1811, Congress passed a bill providing for the incorporation of a religious establishment and later another bill which would make legal a gift of public lands to a church. Both of these bills were vetoed by President Madison as being

contrary to the First Amendment. Note that a corporation is a legal entity, operating under a grant of authority from a state or other political authority. In the U. S. each state now has its own general or business corporation laws as well as non-profit corporate law.

Article III of the Constitution provides that:

"Sec. 1 The judicial Power of the U. S. shall be vested in one supreme court, and in such inferior courts as the congress may from time to time ordain and establish."

"Sec. 2 The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States, . . . In all cases affecting Ambassadors . . . and those in which a State shall be party, the Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate (appeals) jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the Congress shall make."

From the above it is plain that the Supreme Court is given jurisdiction in any case involving application of the Constitution, or any of the laws of the United States—that is, laws passed by Congress.

Therefore, in cases relating to establishments of religion or the exercise of religious beliefs it would seem reasonable to conclude that since the Congress shall make no law in respect thereof, and that without such a law by Congress there is no basis for jurisdiction in the Supreme Court, or the "inferior courts" ordained and established by the Congress. However, if such a conclusion is to be valid—all other avenues leading to jurisdiction must be eliminated.

This brings us to an examination of the Article XIV, the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment provides, among other things not pertinent here, that:

"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; . . . nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The meaning here is quite clear and simple. Obviously, if a citizen of the United States is given a right or provided an immunity by the Constitution, that right or immunity shall not be nullified by any State law.

The 14th Amendment, then, is the avenue by which the Supreme Court finds authority in cases involving state laws.

While many of us may have reservations in respect to the context in which this amendment originated and the manner in which this amendment originated and the manner in which it was adopted, it is there to protect the rights of the individual, from the State as well as from the Federal government. It is but one more application of the teaching of Jefferson and Madison. Jefferson wrote: "In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution." In 1788, Madison, writing to Jefferson said, "Whenever there is an interest and power to do wrong—wrong will generally be done, and not less readily by a powerful and interested (political) party, than by a powerful and interested prince." We can expand this to cover any field of interest with equal accuracy.

Justice Frankfurter, some 25 years prior to the 1963 Abington decision, and quoted therein stated: "The Constitution . . . prohibited the

Government, common to all, from becoming embroiled, however incoherently, in the destructive religious conflicts of which the history of even this country records some dark pages" 68 S. Ct. at 473.

These provisions, as applied by presidential vetoes and the Supreme Court, have been our only protection from those who would seek to fuse the functions of church and state, thus throwing us back into the Dark Ages.

The 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court decisions, which the Helms Bill S-450 seeks to "circumvent," were:

- (a) *Engel v. Vitale* 37 S. Ct. 424 (1962) and;
- (b) *School District of Abington Twp., PA v. Schempp* 37 S. Ct. 1560 (1963).

In the *Vitale* case the Supreme Court found the 22-word prayer used in New York's program of daily classroom invocations of God's blessings as prescribed in the "Regent's Prayer" to be a religious activity required by statute, and that statute contradictory to the First Amendment. In the *Schempp* case (which includes the *Madelyn Murray O'Hair* case) we had a Pennsylvania statute requiring scripture reading followed by prayer; and in the *O'Hair* case we see a school board rule requiring opening exercises encompassing reading of the Bible followed by the Lord's Prayer.

There were then state laws or rules requiring the prayers and/or Bible reading.

Our first reaction here is natural—we immediately say, "Well, what's wrong with that?"

The Supreme Court uses some 62 pages to answer that question. I recommend reading it. But for those who cannot—

(Continued on page 5)

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Bible Been Banned?

(Continued from page 4)

1. The First Amendment provides that the Congress shall make no law (for or against) respecting an establishment of religion.

2. The Fourteenth Amendment makes that same rule applicable to the states and local governments.

When we observe how government—federal, state, and local—has grown, how it attempts to enter every facet of living, how laws have been expanded to accommodate the changes in the attitude of government—the state, if you will—to that of "How can we best control the masses," it is not difficult to see what could happen if the functions of State and Church were once more combined!

In Justice Brennan's concurring opinion we find the following:

"C. Non-Devotional Use of the Bible in the Public Schools. The holding of the Court today plainly does not foreclose teaching about the Holy Scriptures or about the differences between religious sects in classes in literature or history. Indeed, whether or not the Bible is involved, it would be impossible to teach meaningfully many subjects in the social sciences or the humanities without some mention of religion. To what extent and at what points in the curriculum, re-

ligious materials should be cited are matters which the courts ought to entrust very largely to the experienced officials who superintend our Nation's public schools. They are experts in such matters, and we are not. We should heed Mr. Justice Jackson's caveat that any attempt by this Court to announce curricular standards would be "to decree a uniform, rigid and, if we are consistent, an unchanging standard for countless school boards representing and serving highly localized groups which not only differ from each other, but which themselves from time to time change attitudes." Illinois ex rel. McCollum v. Board of Education, supra, at 237 of 333 U. S., at 478 of 68 S. Ct. . . ."

As we have seen from the above, the Supreme Court's decisions do not "ban" the Bible from the public schools. They likewise do not ban voluntary prayer or recognition of God. What they do ban is the requirement of religious exercises, be that requirement express or implied.

With this in mind, I must concur with Porter Routh's comments. The legislation proposed is not in the best interests of the First Amendment, nor of religion itself.

Properly applied, the provisions of the First Amendment not only protect the individual from the government and the church, but it protects the rights of the individual from a misguided majority, and last, but by no means least, it serves to protect the various denominations from one another, by negating the likelihood of the larger religious group in a particular state from influencing the state to make laws beneficial to itself but detrimental to the less powerful groups or individuals.

To remove jurisdiction over such cases from the Supreme Court would be tantamount to repealing the First Amendment, for then there would be no place to which we could appeal for redress of violations of its provisions. Once religion is eliminated from its protection, freedom of speech and freedom of the press will not be far behind.

The Crane-Helms Bill S-450 must then be defeated. But not by "bottling it up," which only contributes further to the loss of what was once called "Democratic Process."

I respectfully urge each of our representatives to sign the Crane Petition to release the Bill S-450, and then dispose of the bill by voting against it.

R. Q. Webber of Jackson is a Certified Public Accountant.

Thursday, August 21, 1980

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

BSU Groups On 18 Campuses Will Launch Mississippi's 'Outreach 80'

Fall semester of the 1980-81 school year launches "Outreach 80," a national Baptist Student Union evangelistic campaign. Mississippi BSU groups on 18 campuses are participating by planning special events in evangelism. The campuses also are providing witness training for college students who are concerned about winning the students on their campuses to Jesus Christ.

Theme of the Outreach 80 strategy is "Bold Preparation, Bold Proclamation, Bold Follow-Up."

The various Mississippi campus BSU's report the following plans for Outreach 80:

Baptist Medical Center, Oct. 20-22: Jimmy Bilbo will lead the music, Tommy Hudson, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, will speak Oct. 20, Ellen Sullivan of Tylertown, on Oct. 21, and Keith Tonkel, pastor of Wells Memorial and St. Johns United Methodist Churches, on Oct. 22.

Blue Mountain College, Oct. 26-31: Evangelistic services sponsored by Lowrey Memorial Church, Steve Brown, pastor, First Church, Gainesville, Ga., speaker, with one-to-one witnessing on campus emphasized and coordinated by the BSU. Earlier in the semester there will be campuswide

evangelistic programs and a witness training retreat for the BSU.

Delta State University, Oct. 26-30: evening services, Sunday-Thursday; noon services, Monday-Thursday; William Spears, pastor of First Church, Isola, will be the speaker.

East Central Junior College, Oct. 26-30: Evangelistic sessions will be led by Mike Jeter, minister to single adults at First Church, Jackson. Earlier in the semester the BSU will hold witness training sessions and have a special prayer week and visitation.

Hinds Junior College, Sept. 21-26: The program will be in conjunction with revival services at Raymond Church which will have Evangelist James Fancher as speaker. The BSU Center will hold daily prayer services and room to room visitation on campus, plus featuring special campus groups as guests at the BSU.

Jones County Junior College, Oct. 7-9: Evangelistic services will be held by Cliff Estes, pastor of First Church, Glendale.

Mississippi State University, Oct. 27-29: "Good News Celebrations at the BSU Center will feature Benton Williams of the National Student Ministries, Nashville, on Monday; Jim Keith, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, on Tuesday; and Joe McKeever, pastor of First Church, Columbus, on Wednesday. Byron Cutrer of First Church, Gainesville, Ga., will lead the music. Campus concerts will be held at noon Monday and Tuesday in the Union Lounge. Earlier in the semester there will be a prayer vigil, evangelistic training sessions, and evangelistic Bible study groups.

Mississippi University for Women, Sept. 20-Oct. 4: Speakers for the campus sessions will be Mrs. Sybil Warren, of Yazoo City, Sept. 29-30; Benton Williams, National Student Ministries, Nashville, Oct. 1-3. There will also be special appearances by the BSU players, "Sonrise," BSU puppets, and BSU choir. Music will be directed by local music ministers. Saturday night Ken Medema will give a concert in Whitfield Auditorium. Other activities related to Outreach 80 include a share seminar and evangelistic Bible studies.

Northeast Mississippi Junior College, Oct. 13-17: Speakers include Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on Wednesday; John Bramlett, ex-pro football player on Thursday; and a concert by Truth on Tuesday.

Friday will feature a cookout.

Pearl River Junior College, Sept. 29-Oct. 2: Evangelistic services will be held at 7 p.m. in Moody Hall Auditorium with Nathan Barber, pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis, as speaker. "Harvest" will present a day concert on campus.

University of Mississippi, Oct. 19-22: Sunday-Thursday services at Fulton Chapel will feature Jim Keith, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, and Bill and Linda Cates of Nashville as musicians. This is preceded by prayer and sharing sessions, dorm visitation, and is followed up by dorm Bible studies for converts.

University of Southern Mississippi, Oct. 13-16: Each night in Union will be entitled "Christ — A Viable Option," with Ron Durham, Waco, Tex., on Monday and Thursday, Bryan and Marguerite Humphrey, Texas based mime team, in the coffeehouse on Tuesday, concert featuring various groups on Wednesday, and a student-faculty breakfast will be held Thursday morning. Evangelistic Bible studies will begin in early September and a 24-hour prayer chain and witness training will be offered.

Copiah-Lincoln Junior College, Sept. 22-24: Ernie Sadler, pastor of Easthaven Church, Brookhaven will preach and Ken Brookins, also of Easthaven, will lead the music.

Clarke College, Oct. 27-31: Evangelist Danny Lafferty of Ocean Springs will lead special services. Other activities during the semester include prayer groups, Bible studies, visitation, and follow up.

Mississippi Delta Junior College, Nov. 30-Dec. 5: There will be an area wide Central Delta Crusade for Christ featuring John Draper, as evangelist and Jamall Badry with music. The BSU center will hold witness training sessions Oct. 20-22.

Mississippi College, Nov. 17-19: There will be a campus revival with Steve Brown, pastor of First Church, Gainesville, Ga., as preacher.

Holmes Junior College, Nov. 24: This will be a big meeting to bring together all activities of the semester which include the film "Heavenly Deception" to be shown Sept. 15, witness training, and two-by-two witnessing in November.

Southwest Mississippi Junior College, Oct. 6-8: Donald Bozeman, pastor of First Church, Jackson, La., will speak. Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Greer of McComb will lead the music.



Mt. Vernon Singers Witness In New York

The Mt. Vernon Real Life Singers of the Mt. Vernon Church, Newton, along with their chaperones Pastor and Mrs. Gerald Hodges, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Boulton, and Mrs. Carlean Loper have returned from a mission trip to the Olean, N. Y. area. The group conducted Backyard Bible Clubs, did puppet shows, sang in several churches and did one-to-one witnessing.

They reached 150 children in the Backyard Bible Clubs; 42 professed Christ as Savior. The group sang in the Grossman Avenue Church in Olean, New York and in a Spanish and Latin American mission in Dunkirk, N. Y.

This group also toured several missions in the area, took a trip into Canada, and visited Niagara Falls.

Left to right are: front row, Helen Boulton, Martha Hodges, Carlean Loper; second row: Sarah Griffin, Lisa Loper, Tamara Jones, Linda Williams, Tracy Williams, Mary Ann Shepherd, Lisa Byers; third row: Bill Boulton, Jerry Griffin, Derwin Estes, Robbie Kennedy, Jeff Griffin, Tim Thomas, Mike Boggan, Gregg Boggan, Victor Coker, and Gerald Hodges.

Zeal Wins Italians . . .

(Continued from page 1)

tic campaigns had not been successful for Italian Baptists. The American-style meetings just didn't reach Italian non-Christians, they found. But renewed interest and enthusiasm is exhibited by churches which have participated in recent campaigns designed along the lines Italian Baptist themselves have worked out in conjunction with missionaries, other European Baptists, and Baptists from America.

Last fall teams from churches in England, France, Holland, and the United States came to Italy to undergird such a campaign. The meetings were coordinated by the World Evangelism Foundation, a Texas-based group. The results were decisions for Christ, and spiritually challenged churches.

With such a basis from which to build, Guarna foresees expanded evangelistic outreach on both individual and cooperative levels. But he will continue to emphasize the primary role of the local church in whatever efforts are made.

OUTREACH '80

BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER
October 20-22

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
October 26-31

CLARKE COLLEGE
October 27-31

COPIAH-LINCOLN JUNIOR COLLEGE
September 22-24

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
October 26-30

EAST CENTRAL JUNIOR COLLEGE
October 26-30

EAST MISSISSIPPI JUNIOR COLLEGE
October

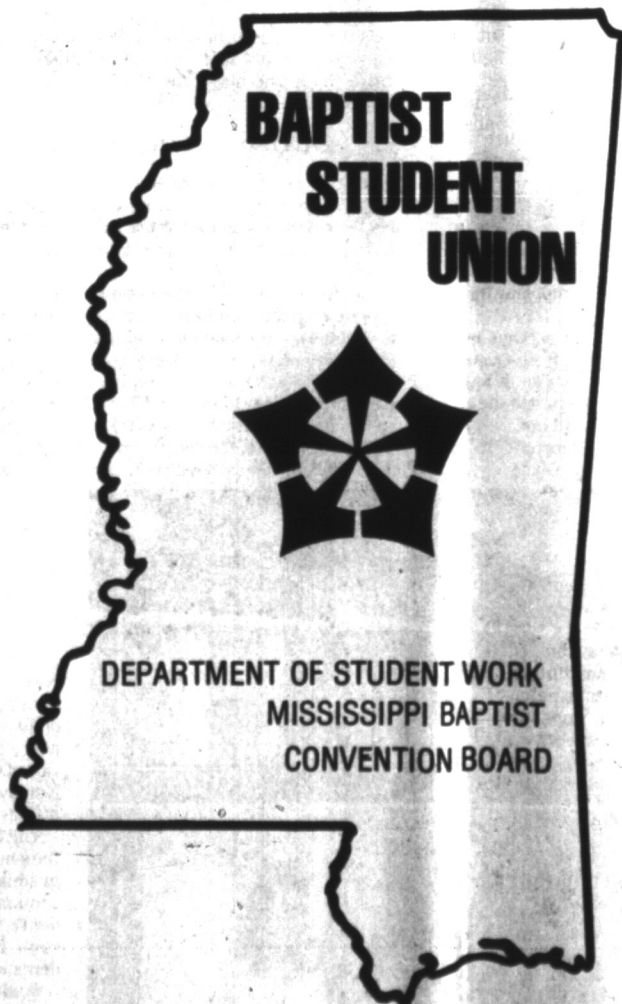
GULF COAST JUNIOR COLLEGE
October

HINDS JUNIOR COLLEGE
September 21-26

HOLMES JUNIOR COLLEGE
November 24

ITAWAMBA JUNIOR COLLEGE
October

JONES COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE
October 7-9



MERIDIAN JUNIOR COLLEGE
October

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
November 17-19

MISSISSIPPI DELTA JUNIOR COLLEGE
November 30-December 5

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
October 27-29

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN
September 29-October 4

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI JUNIOR COLLEGE
October 13-17

NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI JUNIOR COLLEGE
October

PEARL RIVER JUNIOR COLLEGE
September 29-October 2

SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI JUNIOR COLLEGE
October 6-8

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
October 19-22

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
October 13-16

WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE
October 6-10

State-Wide Campus Evangelism Emphasis

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, 1980

Just For The Record . . .

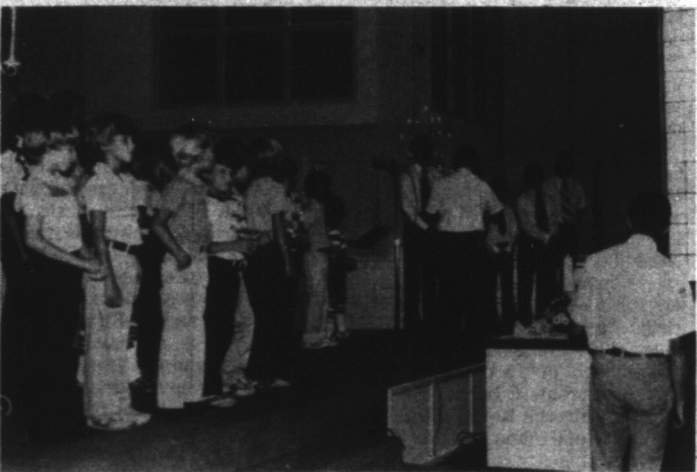


First, Kosciusko Breaks Ground

First Church of Kosciusko held ground breaking services Aug. 3 for their new activities building. Pictured are L. Edward Gandy, pastor, center, bringing the dedication address, and from left to right: Howard Wamble, Building Committee member, Bob Taylor, minister of music and education, Bill Simpson, Brotherhood director, Charles Hill, Church Training director, Hal Jenkins, chairman of deacons, Mrs. Stacy Chandler, Building Committee member, Mrs. C. W. Doss, Building Committee member, Harold Nowell, chairman, Building Committee; and in the back row, left to right, Cadman Porter, Building committee member, and Warren Ferguson, Sunday School director.

The new building will contain a combination gym and fellowship hall, new kitchen, church parlor, office facilities for the church staff, game room and crafts room, library and the entire educational areas for pre-schoolers from birth through 5 years of age.

The total project will include renovating the ground floor of the old building to include more education space for adults and provide more space for the music program. The cost of this project, new building and renovation, plus some furnishings and architect's fees will be approximately \$961,000. The project is scheduled for completion sometime next summer around July.



Royal Ambassadors who received awards in the recognition service at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, Aug. 6 included Jonathan Corley, Todd Dalton, David Humphreys, Trey Wooton, Kyle Cook, Todd Shivers, Chris Sturgis, Lincoln Godfrey, Joe McLain, Jon McLain, Shaun Hand, Montgomery Hinton, Danny Taylor, Dannon Durr, David Taylor, Brad Baker, Bobby Browning, and Kimball Gober. Ross Ulmer is the R.A. director.



Acteens recognized at Morrison Heights, Clinton, Aug. 6, were, left to right: Darlene Taylor, Queen with Scepter; Lori Turcotte, Queen Regent in Service; Leslie Turcotte, Queen; and Shelly Smith, Queen. Crown and scepter bearers were, front row: Chris Williams, John Calhoun, and Berk Sauls.

Girls in Action recognized for their achievements were Christy Ainsworth, Angela Calhoun, Carla Corley, Missy Dalton, Dacia Durr, Trudi Freeman, Angela Gilstrap, and Jennifer Smith. Phyllis McGregor is Acteens director; Marjean Patterson is G.A. director; Doris Murphy is WMU director. Kermit McGregor is pastor.

Morrison Heights

Queen-Regent-In-Service Liked "Adopting A Grandmother"

"I'll Tell the World" was the theme of the mission organizations' recognition service held August 6 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. Lori Turcotte was recognized for the highest achievement in Acteens' Studiact, Queen-Regent-in-Service.

Lori, the daughter of Eleanor and Ernest Turcotte, has been in missions organizations all her life at Morrison Heights. One of the new queens, Leslie, an eighth grader at Clinton Junior High, is her sister. Leah, a younger sister, has finished Adventures I and II.

In fact, Lori's involvement in Acteens is a family affair. Her mother has been her leader during the past year. Mrs. Turcotte's interest in missions work stems from that of her mother, Lori's and Leslie's grandmother, the late Mrs. Flossie Everette Johnson, of Bowmar Avenue Baptist Church, Vicksburg, who was active in WMU work for 38 years before her death in 1978. No doubt Mrs. Johnson would be proud of her granddaughters' achievements.

Lori will enter Mississippi College as a freshman this fall. She said that she plans to be active in BSU and other organizations related to mission action.

Lori added, "In the six years that I have been an Acteen, the most enjoyable and rewarding experience for me has been adopting a grandmother. Each year our group would adopt a different grandmother. We would visit her on special occasions or holidays, we would also go see her just to talk or keep her company. Once this year we even took a pizza to the nursing home and had supper with her. I along with my group was able to give some of myself to help other people, but we ended up getting so much more in return. Each time I went I would leave with a warm feeling in my heart that I went one more step in telling the world about Jesus."

Why is it that the boy you were sure wasn't good enough for your daughter turned out to be the father of the world's smartest grandchildren? — The Kiel (Wis.) Record.

The footprint of the savage traced in the sand is sufficient to attest the presence of man to the atheist, who will not recognize God, whose hand is impressed upon the entire universe. — Hugh Miller.

Highland, Jackson Recognizes GAs

GAs who completed the necessary steps were recognized at the GA, RA, Acteen Recognition Service at Highland Church, Jackson. They included Wendy Gray, Nikki Wilson, Sheri Buntyn, Tracey Myers, Tanya Smith, Michele Champion, Deborah Johnston, Myra Barlow and Tami Blocker. Mrs. Lynda Buntyn is the GA director at Highland Church.

Youth Choirs Invited To Choral Clinic

Youth choirs from throughout the state are invited to a choral clinic at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, on Saturday, September 27. Guest clinician will be Phillip Landgrave, professor of church music at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The day's activities will begin at 8 a.m. with registration and refreshments, and will conclude with a performance of the clinic music at 3 p.m. During the day, the choirs will participate in three rehearsals when they will be learning seven anthems.

One of the anthems, "Study to Show Yourself Approved," was composed by Landgrave and will be premiered during the clinic under his direction.

Other anthems to be studied include "Here Am I, Send Me" by John Puritoy; "A Festive Psalm" by Eugene Butler; "O, My God, Bestow Thy Tender Mercy," Pergeles/Hopson; "Lord, Thy Servants Praise Thee," Mozart/Ehret; "Let the Praise Go 'Round," Boyce/Hopson; and "Sing a Song of Love," by Lynn and Johnny Mann.

"We have chosen these anthems for their variety and appeal to young people," said John Morgan, dean of Carey's School of Music. He suggested that music directors order them now so that their choirs can rehearse a few times before the clinic.

The cost of the clinic is \$15 per choir, and registration materials, including a complete list of anthems and publishers, may be obtained by contacting the School of Music, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Directors are encouraged to register early since only a limited number of choirs can be accommodated.

Nature is the great mirror of the Almighty. — Jeanne Guyon.

It is only when men begin to worship that they begin to grow. — Calvin Coolidge

Ed. Commission Director's Son Dies At 22

ATLANTA (BP) — Greg Walker, 22, son of Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, was found dead in his apartment Aug. 10.

The funeral was Aug. 12 in Birmingham, Ala.

Young Walker, an engineering student at Georgia Tech, was found dead in his bed early Sunday morning by his roommate.

"We are at a loss to explain what happened," the elder Walker said.

"He had been working outside Saturday and told us over the telephone that he was awfully tired and hot."

An autopsy was performed to determine the cause of death.



Choir Gives Organ To Spain

Parkway Church Adult Choir of Pascagoula presented Spain with a new Wurlitzer Electric Piano to be used by Southern Baptist missionaries there. This was a mission project begun by the choir last January. Mrs. Mary Simmons, wife of Errol Simmons, serves with her husband as music missionaries in Spain. They have been on furlough, stationed in Hattiesburg, and are returning to Spain this month.

The electric piano will be used in the seminary, and in music schools, as well as in evangelistic meetings. The Simmons pointed out that of the 130 missions and churches in Spain, only ten have pianos.

This is the second such project attempted by the Adult Choir. Last year they sent a new sound system to First Baptist Church, Grand Cayman Island, B.W.I.

Kenna Byrd is the pastor of Parkway Church. Danny Von Kanel is minister of music.



Ellard Celebrates 50th Year

Ellard Church, Bruce, (Calhoun County) celebrated its 50th anniversary, Sunday, Aug. 3. The church was organized in 1930 with 49 members, and now has 142. From October 1930 until August 1935, the congregation met in the Ellard school building.

On Aug. 11, 1935, the congregation dedicated the new building, pictured.

W. Paul Hall, Missions Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, brought the morning message on Aug. 3. Marty Offutt, of Elkton, Ky., was in charge of the music.

Time was spent to recognize charter members and former pastors present. The pastor, Steve Murphree, led in a prayer of dedication. After the service the church served lunch. The afternoon was spent in fellowship.



Sunrise Youths Sing In Kentucky

Nineteen young people from Sunrise Church, Hattiesburg, and eight adults, have been on mission to Frenchburg, Ky., where they presented a musical "Count On Jesus," conducted Vacation Bible School, and led a revival in which James Boyd, Sunrise pastor, and Jim Jackson, Sunrise music and youth director, preached and directed music.

Enrollment in VBS was 22; with a high attendance of 186. Nineteen professions of faith were recorded; one young couple surrendered for full-time Christian service. (The group also presented the musical at Fairfield, Glade, Tenn.)

Those who made the trip were, back row, left to right: Jerry White, Clay White, Bogie Lee, Melinda Runnels, Don Boyd, Jo Ann Lee, Michael Aultman, Lori Napier, Ray Bazar, Charles Gibson, and Tony Brown. Middle row, seated: Bambi Kotons, Greg Fennell, Julie Cooley, Alan Jackson, Charlotte Berry, Exanna Graham, Edwina Ratcliff, Karen Ward, Deidre Brown, and Nancy Graham. Front row: Angie Butler, Vickie Webster, James Boyd, Judy Brown, Jim Jackson, and James Gibson.

Associate Of Divinity Degree Accredited

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The associate of divinity degree, offered by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for students who do not hold college degrees, has been given full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, J. Hardee Kennedy, vice president for academic affairs of the seminary, said.

The first A. Div. degrees awarded at the seminary were presented at spring graduation ceremonies. Formerly, the seminary awarded diplomas for students who participated in the program. Participation is limited to students over 25 years old.

Students who received a diploma award under the program of the School of Christian Training since 1976 may exchange it for an associate degree. A nominal administrative fee is charged.



West Shady Grove Dedicates Pastorium

West Shady Grove Church, Wayne County, dedicated its pastorium on homecoming day. Wilson W. Bogan, former director of missions in the county, was guest speaker. Members of the Building and Grounds Committee led in the dedication service, held in the sanctuary after dinner on the grounds. The Committee, bottom photo, included, left to right: Carley Smith, Lynn Pitts, Jerry Doggett, pastor, Dianna Jordan, and Judy Roberts. For several years West Shady Grove members have dreamed of having a full-time pastor living on the field, and now their dream has been realized.

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Times In The News

81 New Christians Counted

As Summer Ends At Lakeside

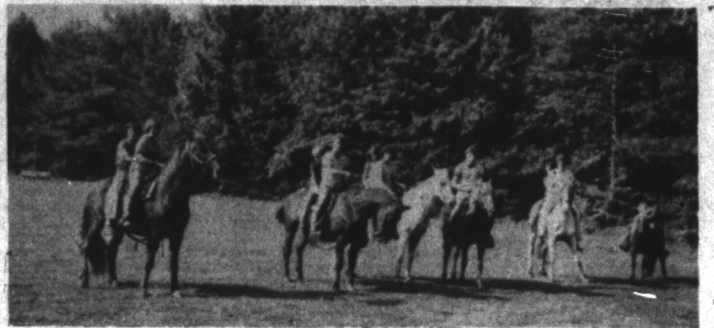
By David Miller

Empty Coke bottles are stacked by the case full. The big bell that rang for the campers the last eight weeks is now silent. The regular summer camping season is now over. It, however, is not forgotten.

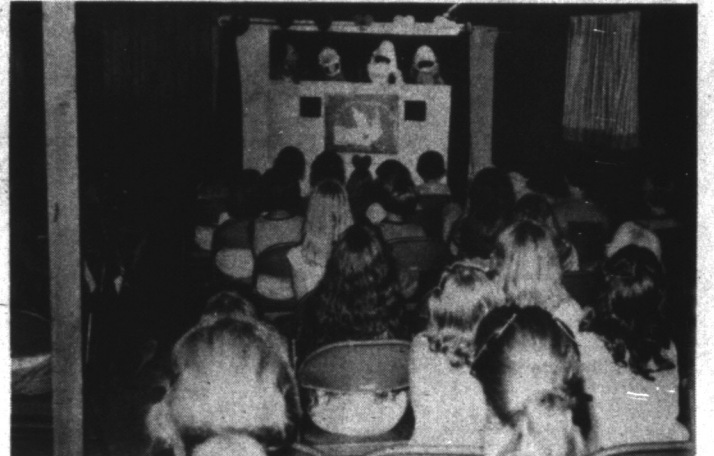
On June 9, 1980, the Baptist churches of Tallahatchie County opened their summer camp. Located on a large government watershed lake 12 miles southeast of Charleston, the camp offers an outstanding program. Volleyball, softball, riflery, archery, swimming, horseback riding, nature lore and canoeing are some of the activities. Combine these with daily devotions and Bible study, along with personal witnessing by trained counselors, and you can see the purpose of the camp.

Hundreds of children attended the camp and many decisions were made. Eighty-one young people accepted Christ as their Saviour. Tallahatchie Baptists are thankful for this ministry and pray that God will continue to bless this work.

As the camp drew to a close, one little girl summed it all up by saying, "I can't wait till next year to come back." Then one of the women that cooked said, "Praise the Lord, it is all over!"



Campers at Lakeside, Tallahatchie County, get ready to go on a trail ride. The horse back riding was popular with all the campers.



Youngsters eagerly watch a puppet show. Each Tuesday night, The Open Bible Christian Book Store of Grenada put on a puppet show. Decisions were made after every show.



These campers take a canoe trip across the lake.

Revival Dates

Crestview, Petal: Aug. 17-24; Milard Box, full-time evangelist from Neosho, Mo., and a former pastor in Mississippi, preaching; W. C. Rainey, Jr., minister of music at Crestview, leading the singing; at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Raymond Parker, pastor.

Shannon, First: Aug. 24-29; Rex Yancey, First Church, Saltillo, preacher; Randy Wood, First Church, Verona, music director; Mrs. John G. Wiygul, organist; Mrs. Edward Filgo, pianist; Ira Bright, pastor; services at 7:30 p.m.

First Church, Greenwood: lay renewal weekend; Sept. 12-14; includes singing, orientation in renewal, relational experiences in "supermarket style," witnessing, small group sharing conversational prayer, and the informality of visiting in homes of church members; sixty lay persons from other churches will assist in conducting this weekend; Curtis A. Burge, pastor.

Highland, Senatobia: August 24-29; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekdays at 7:30 p.m.; Tommy and Dianne Winders, evangelists; Michael Hunt, pastor.

Siloam (Simpson): Aug. 24-29; Johnny Tucker, evangelist; Earl Brewer, music evangelist; dinner on the grounds Aug. 24; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; during the week at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Alton Fagan, pastor.

Lakeshore Church, Jackson: Aug. 24-29; Leo Timms, pastor of First Church, Polkville, evangelist; S. W. Valentine, interim pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., with lunch at the church; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.

Gregg Thomas was ordained to the gospel ministry Aug. 3 by the Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, where he serves as associate pastor. His father, Horace Thomas, pastor of Shiloh Church, Corinth, preached the ordination sermon and Lester James, director of missions for Itawamba county, preached the charge to the church and candidate. A certificate of ordination and a new Scofield Bible were presented by the Wheeler Grove Church.

Thomas is a student at Blue Mountain College and held staff positions at North Winona Church, Winona, and Priceville Church, Tupelo, before going to Wheeler Grove in April.

Since April, he has led in organizing a Children's Church and in developing a youth ministry. Larry Taylor is pastor at Wheeler Grove.

Mrs. Auber Wilds, formerly of Oxford, was in Mississippi for the past two weeks. At age 90, she lives now (and has for two years) with her daughter and son-in-law Amos and Lucy Carleton Marston, in Michigan. Her address is 903 Park Avenue, Iron Mountain, Mich. 49801. Mrs. Wilds' late husband was formerly director of the state Church Training department. Her other daughter, Mary D. (Mrs. Quitman Winter) lives in Edmond, Okla. Mrs. Marston, who was employed by the state Training Union department from 1935 to 1940, stated that her mother is in good health. She and her husband were visiting Mississippi, along with Mrs. Wilds.

The T.E.L. Sunday School class of Eastview Church, Laurel, met in the church recreation hall June 26 to honor Mrs. Lizette

Parker, on her 97th birthday. The cake served at the luncheon was made by Mrs. Philip Wedgeworth. Mrs. Parker was wearing an orchid corsage, a gift from her daughter-in-law.

Mrs. Parker, who lives on Waynesboro Drive, has been a member of the Eastview Church since 1972. Before that time she was a member of First Church, Laurel. Mrs. J. S. Wedgeworth stated, "Mrs. Parker has spent her long life in living close to God."



First Church, Southaven, J. B. Rose, pastor, and T. H. Walker, Sunday School director, awarded perfect attendance Sunday School pins during June and July to four young ladies. Left to right, Mary Jeffries, two year pin; Christi McCormick, four-year pin; and Leslie Stevens, five-year pin. Not pictured, Laurie Hayes, who received her 3-year pin.

Stewart Church honored its pastor, Claude Killian, on Aug. 3 with a surprise luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Members gave an air-conditioner to the pastor. Marjorie McGarrh, church clerk, stated, "Brother Claude's brief ministry here has been very productive and inspiring and the members chose this method of saying 'We love and thank you.'"



Darren Trace accepted Christ during Vacation Bible School led by Mantee youths at First Baptist Church, West Jordan, Utah.



Puppet production, "The Cartwheels," with a modern day prodigal son emphasis, was performed at Briarwood Shopping Mall, West Jordan, Utah, by young people of Mantee Church.

Staff Changes

in Jackson (Hinds-Madison).

According to James M. Doyle, pastor, Mantooth will be responsible for coordinating and directing total programs for both the departments of music and Christian education.

Mantooth and his wife, Marita, were welcomed by the church with an ice cream social and pounding. (Traditionally, poundings were bestowed upon new staff members in order to help them beat the high cost of relocating. Poundings usually consist of single pounds of dry goods.)

Mantooth came to Robinson Street from a similar position in Indiana. A native of Louisville, Ky., he received the B.A. degree summa cum laude from Western Kentucky University and the M.Div. degree from Southern Seminary.

CLASSIFIED

Can't Stop Drinking? For GUARANTEED SOBRIETY send \$2.00 and self-addressed envelope to Box 1484, Racine, WI 53401.



Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland, honored its pastor, Wayne Gullett, and his wife on their fifth anniversary of service to the church.

Chairman of deacons James Harden introduced Odie Henderson, Bolivar county missionary, who praised Gullett for his contribution to the work being done in the Bolivar County Association.

Adron Horne brought the morning message. He has known Gullett for 18 years and told of their close friendship through seminary, a trip to the Holy Land, and their cooperative efforts in many local projects. He elaborated on the pastor's outstanding work among his people and his concern for their welfare. Horne especially emphasized Gullett's leadership in the "Together We Build" program recently begun at the church.

The pastor received a boutonniere and Mrs. Gullett, a corsage. They were presented a silver Chippendale tray.

Missionary News

Bob and Mary Lou Simmons, missionaries to the Philippines, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 715 E. Northside Dr., Jackson, Miss. 39206). They are natives of Mississippi. Their phone number is 362-9063.

Charles and Indy Whitten, missionaries to the Canary Islands, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Pine Trails Townhouses, M-5, Spring Ridge Rd., Clinton, Miss. 39066). He is a native of Weir, Miss., and she is the former Nella Dean Mitchell of Louisville, Miss. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1947.

Robert and Angelyn Golmon, missionaries to the Philippines, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 481 Jacks Creek Circle, Henderson, Tenn. 38340). A native of Mississippi, he was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1974.

Mississippi, he was born in Franklin County and lived in Moss Point during much of his early life.

Carroll and Cheryl Camp, missionaries to Kenya, may be addressed at Box 52, Limuru, Kenya. He is a native of Meridian, Miss. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1979.

James and Carolyn McAtee, missionaries to Indonesia, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 2837 Engleside Dr., Jackson, Miss. 39212). They are natives of Jackson, Miss.

John and Kathy McNair, missionaries to Spain, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o Mrs. Sam McNair, Rt. 1, Box 173, Magee, Miss. 39111). They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1974.

Mantee Church Sponsors Mission Project In Utah

A group of 22 youths and 10 adults from the Mantee Church recently returned from West Jordan, Utah, a suburb of Salt Lake City.

This group worked with the First Baptist Church of West Jordan in Vacation Bible School; performed puppet productions in the Briarwood Shopping Mall; and performed the musical "Branches of the Vine."

The VBS broke all records for the 12-year-old congregation of 68 members. The enrollment was 141 with an average attendance of 107. One profes-

sion of faith was made public.

The puppet productions attracted crowds of up to 100 children and parents in the shopping mall. Productions with biblical messages like Jonah, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Noah and the Ark, and others were used.

This project was done in conjunction with the Home Mission Board and culminates a nine-month training and preparation period.

The pastor of Mantee Church is Paul Thibodeaux, and the minister of music is Betty Johnson.



VBS July 20-25 at First Baptist Church, West Jordan, Utah, (pastor, John Blake) attracted 141 children. The school was led by a group from Mantee, Miss.

Copiah-Lincoln Sends Director To W. Germany

Lincoln and Copiah Baptists are sending their director of missions, Eugene Roberts, and his wife on a mission trip to West Germany. The couple left Aug. 11; and they will spend eight weeks in Europe.

In response to the Bold Mission Thrust challenge, association leaders began to think of the possibility of a mission service project for the director of missions; they asked him to consider such a venture in the United States or abroad. Correspondence with four areas of work followed. In June there came an appeal from John Merritt, executive secretary for the European Baptist Convention for an interim pastor for an English-speaking church in West Germany.

Both associations voted in June Executive Committee meetings to respond to this appeal and to send the Roberts to serve this church during the latter part of August and all of September. The church is at Giessen, 40 miles north of Frankfurt.

During the absence of the director of missions and his wife, volunteers will assume various responsibilities for the

two associations. An answerphone will receive messages and designated persons will respond to the messages.

Reception For Reids Will Be A Triple Celebration

Wiley B. Reid, pastor of Friendship Church, Brookhaven, and his wife Katie will be honored at a reception, Aug. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m., at Friendship Church.

Church members and the Reids' children are giving the reception to celebrate the couple's 25th wedding anniversary. Pastor Reid's 25th year as an ordained preacher, and his 11th year as pastor of Friendship.

Wiley and Katie Reid were married Aug. 27, 1955. He was ordained Nov. 27, 1955.

Mrs. Barry Reid of Rt. 2, Brookhaven, states, "All friends and relatives of the couple and invited to attend."



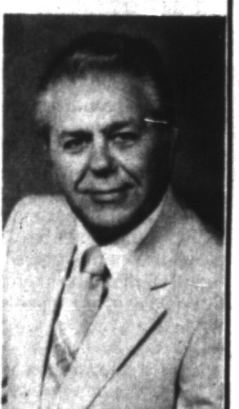
John Adams is the new pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Smithdale. Adams, a native of Lincoln County, received the Master of Divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Denise Havers and they have two daughters, Jennifer, 6, and Karen, 3.

Walter L. Mantooth was recently installed as minister of music and education at the Robinson Street Church

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY
MORNING WORSHIP 8:30 and 11:00 AM CHURCH TRAINING 5:45 PM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM EVENING WORSHIP 7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY
FELLOWSHIP DINNER 5:00 PM PRAYER SERVICE 6:30 PM



SCRAPBOOK

A Vapour

For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away (James 4:14).

Does man ever consider
The scarceness of his days?
How quickly the hours pass
And the years fade away!

Man lives his life apart from God,
Concerned with worldly pleasures,
Not once giving thought,
To storing up eternal treasures.

Our days have been allotted
That we might live for Christ.
Now is the time for service,
Before our years have passed.

"Tomorrow I will serve Him."
In youth that's what we say.
And when we're old, these thoughts
are ours,
"I could have served Him... yesterday."

Our days are short and like a vapour,
We soon will vanish away.
So what we would do for Jesus,
We must do today.

Yes, all of our tomorrows
Become our yesterdays.
Life is short and like a vapour,
And soon will vanish away.

—Larry Preston

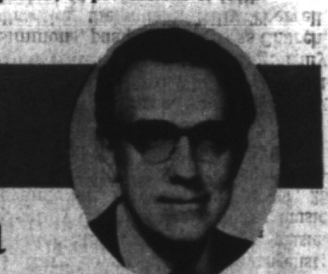
Homecomings

Bethel Church, Copiah County, near Hazlehurst, will have homecoming Sunday, Aug. 24. Activities will include worship service at 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; afternoon service at 1:30. Ace McVay will be the guest speaker. Ovis Whittington, minister of music, will lead the singing. Philip Douglas is the pastor.

Revival Results

First Church, Safford: July 27-Aug. 1; Gary Bowlin, Jackson, evangelist; Genter Stephens, minister of music, Gentilly Church, New Orleans, music evangelist; Rex Yancey, pastor; 25 professions of faith; three surrendering to full-time Christian vocation.

Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale: July 27-Aug. 1; Richard White, evangelist from Hattiesburg, preaching; Billy Simmons, pastor of Progress Church, directing the music; Billy Therrell, pastor; 12 professions of faith.



New Salem To Celebrate Centennial

New Salem Church, Route 2, McCall Creek, was organized August 29, 1880, and will celebrate its hundredth anniversary Aug. 31.

There will be morning and afternoon services, with dinner served at the church. The reading of highlights from the history of the Church will be the main feature of the morning service. Copies of the history will be distributed at the celebration. The morning message will be brought by Wiley Reid, pastor at New Salem, 1957-67.

In the afternoon, Elton Barlow, another former pastor, will lead in a brief dedication service for the new fellowship hall. Barlow has also served as interim pastor for the last five months. Time will also be given for brief testimonies by former pastors.

The day's music will be led by Charles Case, church music director, and Mrs. Lynn Chapman, church pianist.

"All former pastors, members, and friends who attend are invited to dress in the styles of the 1880's," said Barlow.

Joe Buffalo is the new pastor.

Richton Baptists Go To Colorado

Twenty-six youths and adults from First Church, Richton, spent July 6-11 in Colorado Springs, Colo., assisting two churches in outreach and evangelism.

Sunday morning services were held in the Village 7 Chapel and evening services were held in the Cimmeron Hills Church. Tom Sims, a layman from First Church, Richton, was preacher for Sunday services and joint revival services each night during the week.

Each morning, Mon.-Fri., was spent in Vacation Bible School on a vacant lot belonging to the Cimmeron Hills Church. About 50 children were in attendance each day.

Four Backyard Bible Clubs were held each afternoon in the Village 7 area. At least 50 children were reached through these Bible Clubs.

"These areas of Colorado Springs are densely populated and in need of evangelization," states Raymon Leake, the Richton pastor.

The pastors of the Colorado churches involved are Monty Jones, Cimmeron Hills, and Harold Daniels, Village 7.

Devotional

The Plight of the Elderly

By Kirby Tyrone, Retired Teacher, Prentiss

Psalms 71:9

"Cast me not off in the times of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth," distressfully laments the psalmist. Of whom was the individual speaking? Of himself and him alone? Hardly likely. A belief is that he was encompassing the entire aging world.



Tyrone

His plea may have included the current (at the time) treatment of old people and it may also have had reference to all like people down the ages. It could have been something similar to what many people do with their aging parents in this day — dump them in nursing homes and then go about their daily business, forgetting about them until maybe something tragic happens to awaken their consciences. In one such case, a fellow, after many years, called the nursing home only to be notified that his mother had been dead for three years.

Furthermore, the speaker may have been foreseeing the day when there would possibly be insufficient food; and, if he did have such, there would not be anybody around to prepare it for him. His spouse, if she were still alive, may have been in the same condition as himself and unable to do the house chores and prepare a meal.

Another possibility in the mind of the psalmist could be a day of isolation he would have to endure, a period in which he would be unable to get around and on the outside. Naturally the public would lose sight of him if they did not observe his daily movements. Too, when a person is isolated the general public prefers to refrain from a visit, because they do not want to hear the groans and gripes of others.

And other possible aspects: that of leadership in the community and institutions, namely the church. There is a hesitancy in choosing an elderly person for leadership because there are so many younger people they can depend on to perform the job at hand. No matter what ability the aged may have, many are left by the wayside without anything to do.

In spite of the psalmist's mournful words, numerous old people have rendered ably and efficiently in the times of their supposed retirement. For instance, Commodore Vanderbilt, before the turn of the century, retired from shipbuilding at 69. After a year of restless hours he bought a railroad, then another, and on until he had amassed an immense fortune, unlike that of many of his peers.

Likewise, but in the field of politics, Theodore Green, governor, United States Senator and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the latter august body, retired at 93 with distinction. And possibly more eminent than all was Dr. Robert G. Lee, who preached "Pay Day-Some Day" to millions of people until he passed on into glory land, in the nineties of his life.



Carlises Man Book Booth

Southern Baptist missionaries Jason and Susan Carlisle manned the "Libreria Bautista" (Baptist Book Store) booth that the Florida Baptist Church set up during Saint Cato Day in Florida, Uruguay. During the day thousands of people from the Southern Cone of South America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay) came to pay homage to this statue saint, who is said to be the saint of good luck and love. "We don't sell that much, but it is a good opportunity for witnessing, making contacts, and for letting the people know that there is a Baptist church," said Mrs. Carlisle, a Jackson native. (FMB) photo by Bobby Barley.

Uniform Lesson

Restoration Under Ezra

By Jack Glaze, Chairman
Division of Religion, MC
Basic Passage: Ezra 6-7; Focal
Passage: Ezra 7:6-16

The lesson series continues its focus on the Babylonian captivity (586-536 B.C.) and restoration. The hope, born in despair, proclaimed by Ezekiel and Isaiah 40-66 found an initial response when a remnant responded to Cyrus' edict of Toleration (538 B.C.) and returned to Jerusalem (536 B.C.). The difficult years soon dampened the religious fervor of the repatriates. The project to rebuild the temple was abandoned, and then God spoke anew through the voices of Haggai and Zechariah (520-516 B.C.).

Both prophets called for renewed commitment to God and worship. The urgent need for renewing the temple building project was explained: The glory of God could not return to Israel when the peoples' priorities were centered on their own selfish interest. The temple was rebuilt and dedicated (516 B.C.); however, the longed for "messianic age" did not materialize. Religious skepticism began to replace prophetic enthusiasm. The Golden Age of Old Testament prophetic literature (Canonical Prophets) was drawing to a close.

The non-fulfillment of prophetic oracles created doubts as to the value of the prophetic word (cf. Deut. 18:21-22 for the "fulfillment test"; also, Deut. 13:1-4 for the "content test"). Furthermore, the physical poverty and economic oppression contributed to the depressing situation. Once again God moved in the post-exilic community.

Nearly one hundred years after the completion of the temple a new pair of God-called leaders appeared on the scene. Nehemiah, the civil governor, and a religious authority, Ezra, came to Palestine from the Persian capital with royal backing to deal with the complicated economic and religious conditions. From the reservoir of Jewish faith nurtured on foreign soil came a vision of need and understanding of spiritual principles that enabled the community in Palestine to survive another crisis that threatened the future of God's redemptive plan.

Although Nehemiah dominated the immediate recovery, Ezra played a vital role in its preservation. Actually the latter's emphasis on the law fostered the growth of subsequent Judaism with its strong legalistic tendencies. However, he should not be

tally blamed for the later negative development of Pharisaism. In tribute to his devotion to the law, God used his efforts to strengthen the faltering faith so that the community survived the particular crisis of that day.

I. The Date and Man (Ezra 7:6-7,10)
Ezra went to Jerusalem in the "seventh year of King Artaxerxes" (v. 7b). This can be interpreted as referring to Artaxerxes I (465-424 B.C.) or Artaxerxes II (404-359 B.C.). Although the exact chronological order of events is important, it is secondary to the purpose of the lesson. Space does not permit a discussion of the implied chronological problem. Consequently, without assuming any dogmatism, 458 B.C. is suggested as the date for the arrival of Ezra in Jerusalem. At the same time, it is evident that the author's main purpose was not that of giving a detailed history of the period. His purpose was to reveal God's redemptive or "saving acts" (cf. Micah 6:5, Jeremiah 20:30-31).

The lesson is related to Nehemiah 8 (cf. "Renewal Under Nehemiah", August 17). The larger context treats Ezra's journey to Jerusalem from Babylon. Chapter seven (7) is narrated historically using the third person singular, while chapter eight (8) uses the first person singular.

Ezra, like Nehemiah, was reared far from Palestine by parents who did not return with the repatriates in 536 B.C. The impetus to canonization of the sacred writings during the Babylonian Exile had led to the final acceptance of the Law, or the Pentateuch, as normative. As a result, a new element appeared. The scribes, skilled in the art of numbers and writings who formerly had served in government (cf. II Samuel 8:17, I Kings 4:3, Isaiah 36:1-22, etc.), now became specialists in the interpretation of the Law (Torah). In Ezra, there seems to be a combination of both the political and religious elements (cf. v. 6). "Skilled in the law of Moses" and empowered by the king, he came to Palestine probably with a title comparable today to "Secretary of State for Jewish Religious Affairs" (also, cf. 7:12 where Ezra was "scribe of the law." The word "law" is a Persian term, not the Hebrew "Torah"). Above all, Ezra was a student and teacher of the law. His political authority, however, was to "regulate Jewish affairs." He was not imposing Jewish law on non-Jews.

II. The Trip (7:7-8)

The king granted all Ezra requested

(7:6). Accompanied by laymen and temple cultic personnel, the long journey from Babylon to Jerusalem was made in approximately four months (v. 9). The new personnel would serve as healthy trained reinforcements for the discouraged temple staff. The long hazardous trip was successfully completed because the sovereign hand of God protected the party on the journey (v. 9b). Just as the divine power had previously moved the king to generosity (v. 6b), God was working out his purpose in history and Ezra was his chosen instrument. Physical obstacles were overcome.

III. The Royal Decree (7:11-16)
The chronicler carefully inserted official documents to remind the readers of the accuracy of the record. The references to Jewish religious practices in the Persian decree indicate at least consultation with Jewish leaders, if not testimony to scribal activities of Ezra himself.

The extraordinary authority accorded Ezra (vs. 25-26) is recognized in extra-biblical sources. Many scholars consider him to be the author of both the book that bears his name and Nehemiah. Some even credit him with writing also the books of Chronicles. Through the years, Jewish thought elevated Ezra to the position second only to Moses in the transmission and interpretation of the law.

The Lesson Applied
In times of crisis God frequently sent two messengers: Moses and Aaron, Amos and Hosea, Isaiah and Micah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, Haggai and Zechariah, Ezra and Nehemiah, etc. Once Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs and the evangelistic outreach of the early church followed the same principle: Paul and Barnabas, Barnabas and Mark, Paul and Silas formed teams.

Concern for others, hunger for spiritual truth, and willingness to serve were ingredients that made the young Virginian open to God's call to Argentina. In spite of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, he united forces in 1903 with a European Baptist immigrant pastor and the two modern heroes of faith, Sidney Sowell and Pablo Besson, pioneered a movement that opened the Southern lands of South America to Baptist witness. Keen minds and penetrating spiritual insights combined for the glory of God. He still calls his Ezras and Nehemiahs!

Life and Work Lesson Christian Relationships

By Bobby Perry, Pastor
First, Moss Point
I Peter 2:11 to 3:12

One thing which often gets shifted more frequently than the gears on a "straight stick" automobile is responsibility. Yet it is impossible for a business, a government, a school or a church to progress without it. The work of the Lord is in desperate need of those who will faithfully share the responsibility for His work.

An old story, which is an applicable commentary on the lives of too many Christians, concerns a little boy who stood before his dad one day, the picture of guilt and dejection. "Dad," he began, "you know the saw that had been handed down in our family for several generations? Well, this generation just broke it!"

When this story is applied to the Christian life, it ceases to be humorous. Too often the Christian life has suffered the same fate as that antique saw. Peter did not want this to happen to the message entrusted to the care of his readers. It was for this reason that he wrote to them, painting in bold and brilliant strokes their responsibilities as Christians living in a world which hated them.

I. The Believer's Civil Responsibilities (I Peter 2:11-17)

Many times the Christian's obligations in the civil, social, and domestic realms are neglected because of a desire to concentrate on areas which seem to be closer to his interest. Their importance, however, is made plain when it is remembered that Peter's readers were facing severe persecution. These were days of apostasy, and some were defecting from the faith because of the intensity of the trials.

1. Some Important Principles (verses 11, 12)

Prior to Peter's discussion of the Christian's responsibilities in the area of civil affairs, he mentions three basic principles of the Christian life. The first involves his citizenship. Peter pictures the believer as a stranger and pilgrim, a temporary citizen of this world.

The second area concerns the personal conflict in which he is involved. The Christian, when he is born again, receives a new nature which is in conflict with the old nature he received from his parents.

The third area relates to the Christian's character. The word "conversation" refers to a person's conduct or walk. The word "honest" literally

translated means "good" or "outwardly attractive." The believers of Peter's time were much maligned.

There was only one way to refute these charges. That was to live a life of good works so that all the accusations would prove to be groundless.

2. Some Practical Instructions (verses 13, 14)

In order that no one may misunderstand the implications of verses 11 and 12, the apostle adds these practical instructions. They show how the important principles mentioned above apply to life. The relationship of a believer to his government is one means by which he can testify to his salvation. The key word in this relationship is "submit."

The Christian is to submit himself to those institutions or laws created by the men God has placed in responsible government positions (Romans 13:1). The leader has an obligation to conduct himself in office in such a manner that those who do evil will be punished, and the law-abiding citizen will be supported.

These are important words for our day. The spirit of rebellion against governmental authority can be seen in practically all areas of life. Yet, the only exception to submission to governmental authority is a situation in which command runs contrary to God's Word (Acts 4:18-20; 5:27-29). But a believer must be certain that his objection is based upon a Biblical principle.

As a result of one's salvation, the believer is set free from the bondage of sin (Galatians 5:1). But the Christians' freedom is always conditioned by his responsibility.

II. The Believer's Social Responsibilities (2:18-25)

1. The Exhortation To The Servants

When Peter addressed these remarks to servants, he was probably including the majority of his readers. It has been estimated that there were 60,000,000 such slaves in the Roman Empire. Peter's Word to them as believers is not to revolt or throw off their yoke; rather, he counseled them to submit to the master.

2. The Example Of The Savior (2:21-25)

In the early days of Peter's ministry, he did not realize the practical value of the Lord's suffering, because he protested when the Lord spoke of the necessity of His death. He did learn in later years.

III. The Believer's Domestic Responsibilities (3:1-7)

Why was Peter's message to wives six times as long as that addressed to husbands? It certainly can't be that they needed more instruction simply because they were women. The answer to this question lies in realizing something of the times in which Peter lived. According to the Greeks, a woman had only one responsibility and that was "to remain indoors and to be obedient to her husband." Under Roman law the woman's rights never advanced over that of a child. When she was under her father's roof he had the power of life and death over her. After marriage that right passed to the husband.

Under such circumstances it is not difficult to see that problems which a wife would face if she became a Christian while her husband remained a pagan. In addition a Christian husband's obligations are also considered in the light of his relationship to Christ.

1. The Wife's Obligation (verse 1-4)

First, the apostle gives an exhortation to the wives to "be in subjection to your own husbands." What is Peter telling the wives? Simply to be a good wife. Such a testimony will be effective in reaching an unsaved husband.

Second, Peter gives an explanation. His explanation concerns something which is of great worth before God (verse 4). The true wisdom and beauty of a wife does not consist of that which is outwardly worn on the body but of spiritual characteristics which are inward in nature.

Third, Peter gives an example (verse 5, 6). Can a wife actually live such a life? The illustration of Old Testament women, in particular Sarah, is mentioned. The hope of these women was set upon God; they adorned themselves with the spiritual characteristics which have already been mentioned, and they submitted themselves to the leadership of their husbands in the family.

2. The Husband's Obligations

Peter points out that husbands should treat their wives in a loving manner because they both belong to the family of God and in that sense stand before Him equally. If these duties of a Christian husband are not observed, his prayer life before God will be hindered. Certainly for any child of God, access to his heavenly Father ought to be of supreme importance.